

ance such as gave no doubt of its being tenanted by other than "the wild offspring of the woods." Owing to the peculiar nature of our situation and pursuits, and strictly positive orders that none of any rank, or on any account, should go beyond the immediate environs of the encampment except in case of duty, no opportunity could be had of fully investigating the place; and indeed, to be candid, few felt an inclination for so doing, from the apprehension of falling into the hands of the enemy's Indians, scouting parties of whom we knew to prowl occasionally in the neighbourhood.

However, an Officer did with a couple of Indian hunters explore it for a short distance; but the excursion being made by stealth, he was restrained to a very slight and imperfect survey. He discovered no vestige on which the most trivial supposition could be founded, as to the source of the magical harmony with which we were nightly serenaded; and which, from its execution and effect, seemed a strain belonging to the spiritual world that had escaped to this, to bewilder mortal ears with its heavenly fascination.

It had a singularly striking effect on all who listened to it, though in a manner familiarized to it from its frequent occurrence; which was, however, irregular, as it would be heard for many nights in succession, then every third or fourth, and sometimes would cease for a week together.

The Canadian soldiers, nationally superstitious, attributed it to supernatural beings, and called it *la Harpe de Fée* or the Fairy Harp—a term by which it became generally known and designated among us; and whenever its tones swept past on the night breeze, all ribaldry