

with the few troops which composed his force, in a most critical situation ; for there was every reason to expect that the numerous Indians would not confine their indignation to a mere dissolution of the alliance. To convince Tecumthé, in a private interview, of the reasonableness and necessity of retiring, seemed the only mode of extricating the little army from their dilemma ; and it was attempted with success. In a room with Colonel Elliot and Tecumthé, a map of the country was produced, the first thing of the kind that the chief had ever seen ;—and he was in a very short time made to understand, that if they remained in their present position, they must be infallibly surrounded by the enemy. It was only necessary to persuade the reason of Tecumthé to ensure his consent ; and he undertook to prevail on the tribes to embrace the measure which he now saw to be unavoidable. It was one more example of his talent and influence, that in spite of all their prejudices and natural affection for the seat of their habitations, in less than seven days from the holding of the council, he had determined a large proportion of his nation to give their co-operation to the step, of all others, which they had most violently opposed. The close of Tecumthé's mortal career was now at hand ; and after some days of retreat before many thousand Americans, the resolution was taken of giving them battle on advantageous ground on the river Thames. The spot chosen was a position crossing the road toward Lake Ontario, and resting on the river. The British were here drawn up in open files, in a straggling wood, which prevented any attack upon them in regular order : their left secured by the river, a gun flanking the road, and their right extending toward the Indians, who were posted where the wood thickened, so as to form a retiring-angle with them, and to turn the enemy's flank on their advance. This disposition was shown to Tecumthé, who expressed his satisfaction at it ; and his last words to the general were—"Father, tell your young men to be firm, and all will be well." He then repaired to his people, and harangued them before they were formed in their places. The small band of our regulars, discouraged by their retreat, and by the privations to which they had been long exposed, gave way on the first advance of the enemy ; and no exertion of their commander could rally them. While they were thus quickly routed, Tecumthé and his warriors had almost as rapidly repulsed the enemy, and the Indians continued to push their advantage against them, in ignorance of the disaster of their allies, until their heroic chief fell by a rifle ball, and with him the spirit of his followers, who were put to flight and pursued with unrelenting slaughter. Who, in contemplating the life and death of this untutored savage, can forbear the reflection, that he only wanted a nobler sphere, and the light of education, to have left a name of brilliant renown in the annals of nations ?