

not sorry if an accident relieves them. I saw that this poor old thing was in distress and likely to be drowned, so I jumped into the river and swam out to her assistance, not before, however, relieving my mind by abusing soundly the men who would cheerfully have let her sink before their eyes. It was no difficult task to bring the poor old thing ashore, and when I had done so the poor old creature followed me as I walked towards the house, crying in earnest tones :



A SQUAW'S GRATITUDE.

"Meegwitch! meegwitch!" meaning "Thank you, thank you." But I found this very annoying, for the Indians all laughed at me in my wet clothes, and at the old woman, whose clothes were also wet and very thin, as she clung to me, with her incessant "Meegwitch, meegwitch."

The chaff that I suffered from my companions was merciless. I was dubbed "The Knight Errant," "The Heroic Preserver," etc., until I grew sick of it; but to have lost my temper would only have made it worse, so I suffered in silence; and to aggravate my suffering, the old woman thought it her duty to present me with every extra large fish that she caught; or if her son-in-law threw her a beaver tail or a moose nose, or any other delicacy especially prized by Indians, they were sure to find their way to my room; and each demonstration of the kind only added to the fun. After a time I began to pick up the Indian language, and as I always had a sneaking regard for the old woman, I often made use of her assistance in acquiring it. In fact we became fast friends, I cementing the friendship by gifts of a little flour, sugar and tea.

I received less chaffing in the winter, for the other clerks had long since taken their departure for their respective outposts, and I was left sole occupant of the clerks' quarters, or "clerks' house," as it was called.

It was coming on to the end of March, when an event occurred which made me glad that I had pulled the old woman out of the river, and treated her with some consideration, if not kindness. The two fowls which I had brought safely to their destination, had fairly survived the rigor of the winter. In fact, Mrs. McIvor announced one day at dinner,