

regarded the savage with a look of defiance as bold and frowning as his own.

But the civilized mode of warfare, familiar to the young Englishman, if indeed aught deserve the name of civilization which is so nearly allied to barbarism, was unknown to the fierce denizen of the forest, and could he have been instructed in it, would have been spurned by him with disdain. His might lay in physical strength and cunning, and conscious of his own resources, and of his advantage over the powerless stranger, he laughed a wild laugh of scorn at the menacing look of the youth, and waving his tomahawk in the air, shouted his terrific war-cri till cave and forest rung with the startling echoes.

At the thrilling sound, out from the green wood, leaped four stalwart savages, models of herculean strength and symmetry, but disfigured by paint, and adorned with all the wild grotesqueness which marked the costumes of the western aborigines. Gathering round their leader, they discoursed a minute in earnest, even impassioned tones, and then obeying a signal of his hand, two of them advanced towards Frank, and before he was aware of their design, seized his arms and bound them behind him with a thong of deer's hide.

Surprised and indignant to be thus warily entrapped, the young man struggled vehemently to free himself from the bonds they had enforced, but the grasp of their sinewy hands was like an iron vice upon his arm, and after the first moment of resistance, he felt how utterly vain it would be for him to strive against their power.

Yet with all the eloquence of voice and gesture which the emergency of his danger prompted, he appealed to their feelings, and sought to make them comprehend his position. But totally ignorant of their language, he failed to adapt himself to their understandings, and they heard him in vain. They supposed indeed that he had come to their land in the white-winged ship, which they saw retreating from the coast just as the storm of the previous day commenced;—for they had found the boat of the stranger moored in the small bay where they had left their own canoe, and with the sagacity of their race they followed his trail, till it led them to the spot where he rested beside his watch-fire in the forest.

Jealous of the frequent visits of the pale-faces to their country, and of their repeated but as yet unsuccessful attempts to plant colonies upon their soil, they saw in the unfortunate captive, whose evil destiny had placed him in their power, a stealthy spy, and a pioneer to future aggressors, and with the vindictive spirit of their savage

natures, they exulted in the prospect of sacrificing him to their hatred and their vengeance.

Indifferent to his remonstrances, they led him away between them, their companions falling in the rear, while the chief preceded them, threading the tangled mazes of the wilderness with an ease and a celerity which Frank found it impossible to imitate. In truth he was several times on the point of sinking down through sheer exhaustion, for he had tasted nothing since he left the vessel, except some wild berries which he found in the forest, and if his captors had not suffered him to drink freely from the clear streams which often crossed their path, his strength would never have sustained him to the end of his wearisome march.

It was near noon when they reached the brow of a steep declivity, overlooking a long narrow valley, watered by a broad and rapid stream, on the banks of which stood an Indian village, its rude circular dwellings formed by poles covered with skins or mats, presenting a novel and singular appearance to the eye of a civilized European. Towards these, the party commenced their descent down a rugged and precipitous path, which wound among trees whose stately growth bespoke them the primal tenants of the forest.

As they passed on through the sylvan hamlet, children of all ages swarmed forth to gaze upon the party, clapping their little hands with savage triumph, when they beheld the pale-face led captive by the returning warriors of their tribe. Without unbending from his stern gravity, or acknowledging by one word of greeting the loud welcome he received, the chief, attended by his followers, led the way to a wigwam, whose superior size and more elevated position showed it to be the dwelling of the great man of the tribe.

Into this they entered, and then unbinding the hands of their prisoner, they passed a strong cord around his waist, and fastening it to a stake driven into the ground, left him to rest himself upon the rough buffalo hide which was spread out beneath him. Freed from their immediate presence he sank exhausted upon the ground—hope no longer sustained his heart, for he felt himself wholly in the power of vindictive savages, whose fierce looks told him they were already, in anticipation, gloating over the torments they would cause him to endure. Surrounded as he was by numbers, he saw no means of escape; or, even if escape were practicable, it would involve him in dangers and difficulties not less appalling than those which now menaced his life. Resigning himself therefore to a fate which seemed inevitable, a fate which perhaps the brother he lamented had met before him, he