

number of the settlers were said for many reasons to be disaffected, and some even suspected of being secretly in league with the Americans for the conquest of the country; and he had been warned that the section he was now approaching contained the headquarters of one of those disaffected, if not actually rebellious factions. Therefore, as the evening declined toward night, and he seemed to penetrate deeper and deeper into the dense mazes of the forest, in a place where, though he was unaware of it, the road crossed a neck of land, his suspicions and misgivings rose to the point of alarm at his lonely and helpless position.

Since the early morning, after he had left the more thickly settled country in the vicinity of Newark, he had rarely seen a sign of a human habitation, save a stray settler's cabin in some sparse clearing in the forest or on the lake shore, and few persons had he met or overtaken, he was not sure which, on his tedious journey.

The first of these was an Indian, who in the middle of the morning had risen like a shadow at his side, as he threaded a gloomy pine forest that skirted a deep ravine. The dusky savage, though of a lithe and panther-like movement and appearance, showed a friendly face when he lifted it to the other, as he strode beside the horse for a few moments, keeping pace with its advance; and the rider, with the reserve of the soldier, merely let his hand slide toward the pistol at his holster. But the Indian following this motion by a sort of intuition, only said, pointing to his breast, "Mohawk, friend, love Great Father;" and after walking or rather