

The Master of Life

BOOK I.—TIOTIAKÉ.*

CHAPTER I.

THE FEATHER.

THE stag was brought forth. Well rested but anxious-eyed, he was held with thongs by two men of splendid brown skins, some thirty paces in front of where the chiefs sat, along the trail leading into the forest.

Hiawatha and the Black Wolverine, the young champions of their respective nations—stripped of all but belt and loincloth—bent forward ready for the race, their bronze sinews and muscles gleaming and their faces shining with the smile of contest. Their mothers, seated near by, watched them silently but in-

*"Beside the Up-and-Down," i.e., the Great Rapids—the oldest and present Iroquois name for Montreal.