THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XXIX.

HER DANGER AND ADVENTURES. ANYENTERS DANGER AND EXCITING
ADVENTURES.

The return to consciousness from that
abyss of oblivion was accompanied by
such horrors of physical and mental
agony as are not to be described. The
first sensations were those of a wild
crashing tumult in soul and brain—the
sense of being in the centre of a world
that was being smashed into fragments,
and being dashed to and fro amid the
rushing masses till every organ was subjected to excruciating agony.

This continued for what to the sufferer seemed to be an age, then the utter
madness of the wild tumult gave place
to fitful glimpses of greater order and
calmness, till with a sudden unexpected
abruptness the chaotic whirl ceased,
and Jim opened his eyes, while at the
same instant recollection returned to
him.

Where was benuy? He was lying on

calmess, till with a suden unexpected, and Jim opened his eyes, while at the same instant recollection returned to him.

Where was he now? He was lying on the green-sward, with the warm morning sun streaming down upon his wet body, and near to him were a group of Indians preparing food over a bri, ht fire. A few yards away was the river, flowing with unruffled calmness, thoughthe roar of the fall could still be heard in the distance. The distance, however, was bound to be considerable, for the foam and spray, the whiteness and the rushing motion, had time to vanish from the water by the time it gained that spot, where the peace was great, and no hint remained of the terrible wrath through which it had lately passed.

"They've caught me again," moaned Jim, his heart sinking down under the heaviness of its foreboding. "Oh, dear, I wish I had been drowned, for now I'm in for scalping and cutting to death. The old 'un won't save me this time. Hillos! it strikes me these ain't the same sort o' Indians."

Jim was led to make this observation by the difference of appearance he observed in the dress and general appearance of the savages who were congregated round the fire. They were taller and more intelligent looking, had not the low foreheads and ferocious faces of the Chickasaws, with whom he had been sojourning, but presented on the whole more manly and prepossessing features.

This discovery afforded matter for interesting speculation. Perhaps they belonged to a milder and more friendly tribe, and might be inclined to treat him less cruelly than those from whom he had been as thus idea entered it, and he moved his limbs about to draw their attention.

The moment they saw him stir they left their occupations by the fire and came towards him in a body, regarding him as they advanced with a curiosity of the most unmitigated kind, mingled with evident perplexity.

One who appeared to be the leader of the party began to address him, but as the words were spoken in what was to Jim an unknown and outlandish tongue, he co

it was to him.

Still, when the chief paused, they looked as if they expected him to reply, and were estonished when he did not.

"They can't surely expect me to understand their gibberish," thought Jim to himself, "and yet it looks uncommon like it. Perhaps the ignorant creatures imagine that theirs is the only language spoken in the world. They look friendly, too, and it's a pity not to say something. Dang it, I'll try them with a little Yorkshire."

shire."

Acting under this idea, Jim smiled with a facetious blandness, and said—

"How d'ye do, gen'lem? Hopes as how I see you quite well. Out for an airing this fine morning, I suppose, and a rare fine morning it is. My wery best respects to you."

rare fine morning it is. My wery best respects to you."

The effect of this address was comical. At the first sound of Jim's voice the Indians simultaneously fell back in consternation, looking puzzled, bewildered, and even awestruck.

"Ho, ho," thought Jim, "the Yorkshire lingo has a powerful effect on them."

For some moments they stood as if paralysed; them they gazed at each other and conferred together, after which the leader came cautiously forward, and pointed inquiringly, first to Jim's dress and coloured skin, and then to his short, stubbly hair.

coloured skin, and then to his short, stubbly hair.

"Oh, it was them beastly Chickasaws wot did that," said Jim, understanding in a moment the ceuse of their dubiety. At the word Chickasaws the savages pricked up their ears and looked fierce. "Good," thought Jim, "they don't like them Chickasaws, sō I'll blackguard them out and out."

out and out."

"Oh, they're a bad lot, are the Chick-assaws," he loudly exclaimed, and threw as much contempt into his countenance as he could command. "A nasty, dirty set of heathens as I should like to see get a regular walloping."

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