

short, not for so long a time indeed, as it would take a man to walk the circle of the fire twice. In honour of the visitor's nationality, Andrew ("Andy") Thompson sang, in a manner worthy of the song, (such praise ought to make him blush!) "Willie brewed a peck o' maut": and, as a tribute to his good spirits, we made the woods noisy with "Three Jolly Post-boys": but, as we proved over and over again to a demonstration during the camp, the presence of no such visitor was required to give warmth to our songs around the camp fire, glowing as our faces were with health, and refreshed as we were with the wine of happiness.

I would add here a few words as to Nicolas and his conduct that day and the next. At the start he was strangely excited and noisy, and this excitement and this noise grew as the day grew, until at last, when we reached camp, it was so noticeable that Mr. S. H. Blake remarked to us that some one had been giving him fire water. In the evening, excitement fought with stupidity, but each asserted itself superior from time to time. I confess to having had a feeling of disappointment, as the Captain had had occasion before this to recount the man's good deeds and qualities to me. He assured me now that Nicolas would be all right in the morning, and would from that out be worthy of nothing but praise. In this he showed his knowledge of the man. It pleases me to view an incident which happened the next day as one of design. I would have you know that the Indians bathed in the river at a point above where we had our swim, and as a consequence everything that floated which they put into the water was carried down to us. In the morning, at the time when we were bathing, an empty gin bottle floated down! All was told in that! Nicolas was admirable for the whole of the camp. On this particular morning he was penitence itself, and looked for works of supererogation to perform. It pleases me also to believe that this attitude of his was, in part at least, due to the Captain's conduct in refraining from speaking to the Indian. I do not mention this incident for Nicolas' blame.

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