

gravely, in imitation of the men around their council fires, would exchange opinions, and, like white folks, gossip a little in reference to conduct so extraordinary.

The old conjurers and medicine men were at length consulted. They said, after long drumming and pow-wowing, and the consuming of much tea and tobacco at the expense of his relatives, that the spirits of the forests and rivers were calling to him to fast and suffer and prepare to become a great medicine man; and that nature would then reveal her secrets and give him power and influence over the people and make him Good Medicine if he obeyed her voice.

Oowikapun heard of the surmisings and mutterings of the people about him, and at first was very much annoyed. Then, no peace coming to him, for he was afraid to pray to the Good Spirit since he had taken part in the devil dance, he decided to consult one of the old men of the village who had a reputation among the people as being well posted in old Indian traditions and legends. The young man was cordially welcomed to the wigwam of the old man. But Oowikapun had not been there very long in conversation with him before he found out that he was a great hater of the whites. On Oowikapun expressing some surprise at this, and asking his reason for having such bitterness in his breast toward the pale-faces, the old man told him a strange story.

He said that one winter, many years ago, when he was a great hunter, he had been very successful in the chase and had caught quite a number of black and silver foxes, as well as many otters and other valuable fur-bearing animals. Thinking he could do better in selling his furs by going down the rivers and across many portages far away to a place where he had heard that white men had come who wished to trade with the Indians, and who had sent word that they would give a good price for rich furs, he set off for that place. He took his wife along with him to help paddle his canoe and to carry the loads across the portages, which were very many. They reached the place after many days' journey. The white men, when they saw their bales of rich furs, seemed very friendly, and remarked that as they had come so far they must be very weary. They gave him their fire-water to drink and told him