men sitting upon the trunk of a fallen tree. One of them was Bent; the other was the Chief Okwaho (The Wolf). Lying on the mossy bank, a little below, were two fine young Indians, Karhakoha (The Hawk) and Oteanyea, (The Eagle) the youngest sons of Okwaho by his second wife, Jiteaha (The Bird).

A year, or but little more, had produced a great change in their persons and *personelle.*

With all the active elasticity of youth, there was now great physical developement combined ; and with these personal qualities they had become adepts in those arts of inveigling and trapping which make up the accomplishments of a skilled hunter. Under Bent's tuition they had become clever marksmen, and had often elicited the approbatory "yoe hauh" of their father by some more than usually good shot. They were, it is almost needless to say, the constant attendants upon their father and Bent ; and it would have been difficult to say which of the two was regarded by the young men with the greater veneration.

Out of Bent's private funds both young men were supplied with many little things which excited the envy and admiration of their fellows. Their clothing and weapons were superior to those of their elder brothers, although these were dressed and armed in a manner superior to any other young men in their tribe, unless the sons of the Sachem Soiengarahta, or King Hendrick, their father's near relative.

Of Bent himself we have before spoken, but may now add—that owing to his remarkable skill with a long unwieldy rifle, upon which he placed a very high value, and to which he was in the habit of attributing extraordinary powers, he was often called by the Indians "Big Gun ;" but among the Mohawks he was called the Bear (Oghkwari), or my brother (Akyatatekeaha), and as such they had adopted him into their tribe. In person Bent was strongly built ; possessing great length of arm and breadth of shoulder ; muscular and bony, with no spare flesh to carry ; inured to exposure and constant exercise, he was a dangerous man in personal conflict, as many among the Indians had discovered to their cost.

Until some twelve or fifteen months previous he had taken no hostile part against the French, but had persistently remained a neutral spectator of the respective encroachments, contests and border warfare between the English and French Colonists. He had come and gone as it pleased him, without interference from either party. Like many other persons of the time, he possessed very lax notions on the subject of trade and its restrictions, and was in practice a *free trader.*

The extraordinary regulations and monopolies established by the French, and the avarice of many of the Governors, especially in the conduct of the peltry trade, had occasioned numberless disputes with the Colonists. Bent did not trouble himself as to the respective rights of this or that party, or nation, but quietly studied his own, and sold for himself and his friends wherever he could obtain the best terms.

Although he had a considerable amount of land, his relations dwelt upon or near it, and he only occasionally visited them ; his inheritance was in the unbroken forests, and his companions were the natural