

her restless eyes wandered continually along the edge of the forest, as if in search of some lost but expected object.

The sun had reached its meridian height, and poured a strong flood of light upon the hill round which the road wound, that led from the pine wood beyond.

Suddenly, a figure emerged from the wood, and the flash of light from the barrel of the rifle carried by a young man, dressed in the garb of an Indian hunter, attracted the eye of the invalid. A few steps in the rear of the young Indian, were two females, wrapped in dark cloth mantles, bordered with red, folded over on one side, and falling to the middle of the leg, displaying the scarlet leggings pertaining to the costume of the Indian women of that time. The taller of the two, held by the hand a child, apparently about two or three years old, which soon, however, she transferred, Squaw-fashion, to her back. The young hunter wore the blanket coat and red worsted sash, adopted, even in those days, by the Indian tribes who were accustomed to trade with the white settlers.

The party first bent their steps to the cottage near the creek, where they appeared to linger and look around them with doubt; but as they ascended the path that wound up the steep side of the hill, Mary's eyes became rivetted on them with intense earnestness.

"Why do you tremble and quiver all over thus, my poor Mary?" said her friend, anxiously remarking the agitation that shook the frame of the sick creature.

"Thyrza, Thyrza," she said, in hollow, smothered tones; "what mean these strange yearnings that shake my frame?—These are they whom I have watched and longed for with a mother's hope—yea, more than a mother's hope."

She sprang to her feet, as she spoke, and stood with her arms stretched out, as if to embrace the strangers, as they drew near.

Thyrza noticed, that though their dress and carriage were those of the children of the forest, the roseate blood of Europe mantled in their cheeks, and the fair hair and blue eyes of the elder female contradicted her Indian costume.

The young hunter came forward and asked a cup of water. "For," said he, "we have travelled far, and are in want of food and water."