

of attack to expect next, I knew not; but there was no time for deliberation. I therefore threw myself flat upon the ground. I put my gun in order, and there I lay, silently waiting the result. The sounds which had betrayed me, soon told the spot where my enemy was, but whether there might be one or more, the darkness of the night prevented me from ascertaining. All nature seemed at rest—no sound reached my ear, save the stealthy step of one, whom, although I had never seen, I knew to be a deadly foe, and that he was thirsting for my blood. It was a fearful moment, and never did tiger watch more closely the movements of its devoted victim, than I did the wary advance of my enemy. At last I could discover a dark form moving in a crouching position, behind a thicket in the vicinity of my hiding-place. The next moment it became visible on the opposite side. My heart beat fiercely and almost audibly within my bosom. I felt as if one of us must die, and I breathed out a silent prayer to Him in whose hands is the life of all men, that He would sustain me in the dreadful conflict which I saw before me. Nearer my opponent came. To have shot him dead would have been my safest remedy, but I could not bring my mind to do it. Besides, my near proximity to the tent—the state of the ladies—the probable rushing forward in a body of my companions—thus exposing them to unforeseen danger, which was sure to follow the discharge of my gun, and my ignorance of how many natives were near the place—all crowded on my mind. As it were by instinct, I unfastened a tomahawk which I carried in my belt, and which I had used in the fore part of the evening for cutting fire-wood. In this state I waited a moment longer. It was evident from the manner of my enemy, that he had not discovered the exact spot where I was. He was now nearly within arm's length of me. At last our eyes met;—his spear was raised. In another moment I was on my feet, the tomahawk grasped firmly in my right hand. I was perfectly calm. His eyes seemed like balls of fire, and his whole manner was ferocious. There we stood for an instant. At last his spear descended, but, happily for me, its point came in contact with the steel buckle attached to my tomahawk belt, opposite my heart. There was no time to think on my providential escape, and in an instant my tomahawk whirled in the air, and then fell on his head with a force which a skull thicker than that of a savage could not resist, and without a groan he fell dead at my feet.

My situation, even in this moment of victory, was no enviable one. Having an idea that some of my fallen enemy's companions might be lurking near, I became undecided for a moment what step to adopt;—whether to return to the captain, or endeavour to reach the tent in the fulfilment of my mission. A little reflection led me to adopt the latter, which I at last accomplished without further molestation.

The scene in the tent was a very melancholy one. The absence of the captain, and the occasional firing which had taken place in the interval, had wrought so

much on the fears and feelings of the captain's daughter, a young lady of about seventeen years of age, that when I entered the tent alone, she was so much excited, that she sprung from the arms of one of the young ladies who had been supporting her while in a faint, and from the influence of which she had only recovered when I entered, seized me by the arm, and in the most heart-rending tones inquired for her father. The effort was too much for her strength; for becoming exhausted she would have fallen to the ground, but for the timely aid of one of the young gentlemen. From one faint to another, she continued in a very alarming state, till the arrival of her dear father, for whose safety she was so much concerned. Owing to my long absence, the captain had become uneasy for the safety of his friends, and ordering each of the crew to keep a good look out, and hold well together in case of surprise, and also to discharge their muskets alternately as they moved forward, they succeeded in reaching the spot where all that was near and dear to him lay pale and motionless. The knowledge of her father's presence however, with the gentle and affectionate attention of her companions, in a short time happily revived her. The sad state of my young and gentle mistress, with the energy of mind required to soothe and calm her agitation, kept her female friends from thinking seriously on their own condition; but on her recovery, and when they were left to reflect on what had passed, and the dangers still before them, they shuddered with horror, yet felt secure when surrounded by those who they knew would save them from death and violence, or perish in their defence.

The captain, when calmness had been restored, and tranquillity had resumed its place, in each breast, posted the crew at convenient distances round the frail dwelling, and in this state each anxiously waited for the hour of daylight.

Morning! welcome morning to those whose sorrows make the long night irksome, at length opened on us. All nature seemed rejoiced and happy—

"The bee, the bird, and butterfly,
Were on their lightest wing;
The sunny sky, the very leaves seemed glad,"

But with us—the bond and the free, the convict and the master—it was very far otherwise; for, under present circumstances, there appeared but little distinction between the felon and the innocent. We felt glad, however, that day had broken, and happy that the sun had begun to pour its lightsome influence on things animate and inanimate; but the scene before us was nearly of a nature to check our rising aspirations to heaven for safety vouchsafed to us during the night. Opposite to the tent, and in a direct line between the tent and the creek, was a small piece of rising ground covered with beings, who seemed eager to glut their savage propensities in the blood of those who wished not to shed a drop of theirs, and who had only been driven to do so by stern necessity, and the natural feeling of self-defence. In such a predicament, what was to be done? To enable us to escape, our savage