

than half a dozen paces when he became aware that some one was near him.

It would seem that if the scout was able to detect the presence of another so close at hand the stranger ought to be equally prompt in discerning his whereabouts. Such, as a matter of course, would have been the case had the white man been less circumspect in his movements, but the present instance was only one of those in which he made it an invariable rule to guide every muscle with the care that he would have displayed had he known his mortal enemies to be on every hand. Had not such a law governed Orris Ouden's conduct for years it may be set down as certain that he never would have been on the Catsuga on this pleasant night in autumn a long time ago.