

hunting ground, and told them that their village lay far off, in the direction of the sun, which was then sinking beneath the trees, and to which they should soon return. From this time the missionaries commenced learning the language of their entertainers, in which they were able to converse with some facility by the time the Indians returned to their village, which was situated on the Oneida. Having arrived there Price began to teach them; but they having patiently listened to his first sermon, to his great sorrow never assembled to hear him again; and in consequence, he told Wilmington that he would try to discover whether there was any truth in the reports they had heard at Boston concerning the inland waters, and asked him if he was willing to be his companion. Wilmington assented; and having endeavoured to inform the Indians of their intention, the chief, who had conducted them to the village, made them understand, that the river that flowed past led to an immense basin, which they supposed was formed by the continual running of several large rivers, but that few of his tribe had ever paddled far round its borders. There was, however, an old man, who in his youth had ventured to proceed in his canoe for many suns along it, and returned with the report that he had arrived at an immense river which ran into the fresh sea, where having landed, for the purpose of hunting, he had heard a terrific roaring, as he thought, of waters, and, advancing through the woods towards the sound for some miles, the stream became so rapid that no canoe could go up against it. Being very much alarmed, he had hurried back to his bark, and instantly commenced his return; but he was the only one of the tribe who had ever dared to sail so far, and from his account they supposed it the source of the lake.

Having learned this they asked the chief, whose name was Maiook, whether he would allow any of his Indians to accompany them down the river to the lake, and ascertain from whence the sound which had alarmed the aged Indian arose. He at first tried to dissuade them, by every argument in his power; but finding his endeavours of no avail, he said that he would himself join them in their expedition. It was therefore agreed that they should sail down the river the week following; but before the time determined on, an event occurred that considerably delayed their departure.

On rising one morning they remarked that large clouds of smoke were drifting over their heads, accompanied by an overpowering pressure of heat, which the Indians said was occasioned by the woods being on fire; and as the wind was high, showers of ashes frequently fell around them. To avoid these they took shelter in their wigwams, but the hotness of the air, together with the smoke, increased so much that, being in danger of suffocation, the chief proposed that they should cast themselves into the Oneida; and as no better proposition could be made, they hurried into it, and remained with their heads above water, being often obliged to im-