

He felt that he was approaching manhood, and that he had a duty to perform ; for he had made in secret a solemn vow to befriend and guard the unprotected girl who had confided herself to him with the trustfulness of a sister in the hour of peril. He determined never to leave Ellen until she was claimed by one better entitled than himself to afford her the protection she required ; and this was all conceived without one thought of passion or any ulterior motive to sully the generous resolve.

It was a first offering of his youthful heart, where all was fresh, and earnest and unalloyed ; it might be deemed imprudent, romantic, unfeasible—what you will ; but the young and gifted are very unconventional, and the world's cold moderation kills enthusiasm and the great impulses that seem angel-winged for good, in youth's golden morn. Wisdom comes with age ; but it is the offspring of an age of iron !

At length, after many days of constant travelling, they reached the shores of Lake Champlain, which they crossed by the aid of canoes, previously concealed, and continued their route until they fell in with the head branch of the Hudson ; and as he forded its shallow stream, each warrior uttered a shout of gratulation. They were now in