

mised canoe from which Argimou stepped lightly, and while the others disposed themselves severally in its interior, under the direction of his father, he returned to the secret hiding place and brought down the remaining packs and arms.

When all were embarked he took the seat reserved for him, and pushing the canoe clear of the bank, the whole party were fairly afloat and speeding rapidly on their hazardous passage to the sea. Sweeping to the right, when they reached the curve of the stream, they came in full view of the Indian village, the numerous lights of which were reflected on the placid river in long, dagger-like corruscations; no sound broke the deep repose of the hour, except the shrill bark of a dog which echoed and re-echoed among the headlands and coves with startling effect. Gliding past close within the shadow of the western shore, they shot noiselessly along the broad expanse, which was spread out before them, embayed, as it were, by a dark zone of hills, through which, directly in front, the river rushed with foaming impetuosity, slightly luminous by the rays of the low moon just rising in the east, while, as they approached the rapids, their booming reverberations increased and the bed of the river seemed shaken with the continual sound that rolled like thunder, majestically above its surface.

Entering a cove that indented the western shore, near the verge of the falls,—where it was their intention to remain until day-break, when the flood tide would allow them to proceed in safety to the coast,—Edward congratulated Clarence upon the ease with which they had accomplished the descent thus far; while as they paddled towards the shore, which was cast completely into shade, the moon breaking from a dark mantle of clouds, shed a sudden brightness upon the scene, with a power almost equal to the light of day;—that beam was their salvation! Close under the bank, and only a few yards in front, lay a canoe that they had not before observed, in consequence of the deep gloom in which it was concealed, and ere their way was stopped to effect a retreat before they were recognized, the opportunity was lost, for no sooner had the brilliant light glanced on the side of their bark vessel, than a loud yell proclaimed their discovery, and, like an arrow, the Milicete darted out after them in rapid chase.

It was futile to think of outstripping the enemy, overburthened as the canoe was, and even if that were possible, every moment would but bring them nearer to the encampment it

had been their purpose to avoid, which was sure to be alarmed by the shouts of the pursuers, when their destruction was certain; for there was no course open to them but that by which they had just descended, and, when once beyond the noise of the rapids, a single war-cry would suffice to conjure up, on every side, a legion of exasperated foes. It was an instant of great emergency, requiring the utmost judgment and self-possession to determine the most prudent mode of action, and was promptly taken advantage of by the unmoved Pansaway.

With a calm clear eye he measured the distance between the two canoes, and then glanced towards the fall which was close at hand before him, indistinctly glimmering, were barely discernible, the lights of the hostile village, and his choice was decided; 'twas a desperate expedient, but it suggested the only hope of escape. Making a sign to Argimou, who was steering the canoe, its direction was speedily altered, as a half-turn brought the prow to bear upon the eastern shore, then with a whop of bold defiance they dashed their paddles into the rapid current and struck immediately across the river, while the Milicete, with wild shout and reckless determination, followed madly in pursuit.

Then occurred a scene of most thrilling excitement which it would be impossible to portray, with the force of its terrible truth, by the power of human language. Such periods sometimes make men suddenly old in mind and features, as though the former were prematurely blighted by the scathing fire that seared the latter like a parchment leaf. Such wild moments condense in one intense pang, the fear and agony of a life, turning the hair white; an enduring memorial of suffering long after it has passed away.

Without a word, the guides bent their sinewy frames to their herculean task, making the canoe and its living contents almost fly over the water with the tremendous strokes of the paddles, and sending the troubled element boiling and hissing behind in a long luminous trail as they urged impetuously onward in desperate career; while each minute, they were drawn nearer the vortex of the fall which yawned beneath, as if waiting to engulf them in its remorseless waves. The calm stream over which they darted, looked like ink—so black, motionless and still, but, nevertheless, it was bearing them swiftly and surely onward to the torrent's edge, which rolled with a gradual slope below, where, in startling contrast to the river above,