

not far distant, and having exchanged the courtesies prescribed by Indian etiquette on such occasions, they set about preparing their temporary abodes beneath the sheltering oaks. Before dark the young men of both tribes came in, and each greeted the other with the same marked manifestations of friendship.

A few days passed pleasantly away, devoted to the prosecution of the objects which had brought the Indians thither. The men and women of both tribes, during their intervals of leisure, talked and feasted together. The young people exchanged pleasant smiles, some engaged in friendly games and trials of strength, while others tested their skill in archery, by trying whose arrow could bring down the sportive squirrel, or tiny bird at the greatest distance. The children roamed about, irrespective of tribe, regaling themselves with the wild fruits, gathering flowers, chasing the gaudy butterflies, or picking up shells from the sandy shore.

After some time had elapsed in this agreeable manner, two boys,—one of each tribe,—commenced to chase a large grasshopper. It hopped and flew from place to place, closely pursued by the eager boys. At length, the insect was overtaken, and one of the lads stooping to pick it up, his companion jostled him aside, and seized the prize himself. This the discomfited lad resented, and accusing his successful playmate of foul play, he dealt him a blow. A fight ensued. The people from both encampments were quickly attracted to the scene of action.

The respective mothers each repaid the blows bestowed upon her own son. The women generally soon became involved in the conflict, each taking the part of the mother and child belonging to her own tribe. The men, as they arrived at the seat of war, of course joined the combatants of their respective tribe. Then the battle raged with intenser fury than before, and ere long scores of men, women, and children lay weltering in their gore.

The sun, which had risen upon two communities dwelling side by side like brethren, cast his declining beams upon the same men and women inflamed by the fiercest passions and thirsting for each others blood. The same sands that had glistened in his morning rays, were seen at eventide defiled with human

blood, and bestrewed with the defaced and mutilated forms of the dying and the dead.

An elderly woman, who had been out to bring in a deer, on arriving at the camp and seeing the ghastly memorials of the contest, stood in amazement at the sight. She had only a few hours before left all these people in peace and amity. What could so soon have transformed them into enemies, animated with the fury of fiends? She inquired the cause of the wild scene of violence, blood, and carnage that lay before her; and she was told that it originated in a quarrel between two children, respecting the *catching of a grasshopper!*

The writer does not vouch for the authenticity of the above; he merely "tells the tale as it was told to him." It strongly reminds him of an old and somewhat similar legend of the Delawares.

If the causes of wars between civilized nations could always be traced to their minutest beginnings, might not some of them be found to be scarcely less contemptible than that related in the Legend of the Beach.

CHAPTER XX.

THE DAVISES—RAVAGES OF WAR—REMOVAL TO CANADA—RECEPTION BY GOVERNOR SIMCOE—ARMY BILLS.

In 1792, Mr. William Davis, with his sons, Asahel, William, and Jonathan, and his son-in-law, Thomas Ghent, came into Canada, and settled for a time at the mouth of the Chippewa, now Welland river. They had previously resided in North Carolina, where they ranked among the prosperous and wealthy.

During the Revolutionary War the British army, under Lord Cornwallis, passed through that part of the country, and made a halt for three days upon Mr. Davis' premises. Their coming was hailed with cheers of welcome by the Davises, who were strong adherents of the British Crown; but ere they took their departure the family had cause to perceive that the presence of even a friendly army may be attended by rather unpleasant consequences, to the appointments and surroundings of the place favored with such visit.

When Lord Cornwallis removed with his army from the home of the Davises, he gave