

raised their war whoop, every savage, knife in hand, the muscles of his arm swollen to twice their natural size by the tenacity of his grasp and teeth gnashing with rage rushed upon the new comers. 'Tis an awful sight to see savage men, their yellow eyeballs projecting and rolling as if they would break the muscles that bind them in their sockets, their cheeks swollen in coarse folds like the jaws of a mastiff, the thirst of blood depicted upon their features, rushing like the waves of a mighty fire when the winds drive it through a mountain forest. Such were the demons who now came upon the little band of heroes, who numbered about one tenth of themselves. The hunters lost by this attack about one half their number, the remainder managing to get within the walls of the encampment during the confusion that ensued. The Indians now, according to custom, began to scalp and despatch their wounded victims. While engaged in this employment the rattle of rifles was again heard, the smoke rolled upwards and spread itself slowly and calmly over the sparkling lake in long floating lines, as if it were pointing in mockery at the cruelties then being enacted on the shore.

In the meantime, the little party within the encampment held a consultation as to the best means of defence, they resolved to send two of their party in search of their companions and to defend themselves in the best way they could until their return. They looked in each others faces enquiringly, to see who would have the courage to volunteer for so arduous a duty, as it was likely to be a difficult undertaking to escape unnoticed by the foe. At length two brothers of the name of Dixon, who afterwards became famous throughout the settlement for their wonderful adventures and daring pioneer life, offered their services. No sooner was the resolution formed than they put it into execution, proceeding up the lake under the cover of its banks they were rapidly nearing the high rocky precipices that overhung the river where it empties itself into the lake, when they were seen by an Indian whose shriek startled his companions and before a second had passed

away a dozen or more were in active pursuit. The brothers managed to gain the rocks and leaping from crag to crag with the agility of the chamois for a time eluded their pursuers, but two of the savages coming within rifle shot discharged their pieces at them; the balls passed their ears and flattened against the rock not five yards from where they stood and fell harmlessly to the ground. This caused them to be more careful not to expose their persons. The Indians were soon close upon them, on coming to the bottom of the rocks they separated into two parties, the one going round to the top of the cliff so as to intercept the Dixons should they be able to climb the precipice, the other following close behind them; while they, fancying the top of the cliff would be guarded retired into a cleft of the rocks, thinking their pursuers in their eagerness would be more likely to expose their bodies to the fire of their rifles, but they were too wary to do so, knowing full well that their object in leaving the encampment would be frustrated by keeping them in their present position. The Indians having also taken shelter beneath a projecting rock, the two parties were thus but ten feet apart. In this extremity it occurred to the brothers to roll some stones that lay at their feet over the precipice, the plunge into the water below, as they expected, caused the Indians to look over the rock, when immediately the crack of rifles and the death scream of two of their pursuers echoed through the deep gorge, at the bottom of which rolled the river, and reverberated from cliff to cliff sounding like the last agonising shriek from the decks of a sinking vessel, when in one fearful moment the sea engulfs every human form. Not another moment passed before the brothers stood face to face with terror stricken foes, they were all on the edge of the rock, quick as thought two of the savages were hurled headlong into the abyss below; then commenced a fearful struggle between the brothers and the remaining Indians. They were too near one another to use anything but the butt end of their rifles, and the natural desire that in deadly anger man has to grapple with his antagonist caused these weapons to be thrown aside, each