

Then, turning, came upon the trail
 Of Minnekoma ; to prevail,
 Now, confident, he crept along,
 Briars and brushwood close among,
 Slow, silent, panther-like, to gain
 The secret so long sought in vain.
 Reached he soon a spot clear of wood,
 Where once some Indian wigwams stood ;
 There Minnekoma, lending ear,
 Was seen, as if some sound to hear.
 Lo ! cooed a wood-dove, then forth strode
 Thyendaga from that abode,
 The cavern dark, in the rock's face,
 Secret and secure hiding place.
 A moment more, the warrior chief,
 To young Ojetka's sudden grief,
 Was in his loved one's fond embrace.
 Ojetka then, as at the chase,
 An arrow from his quiver drew ;
 But paused ere yet it powerful flew.
 He dared not speed the fatal wood
 While friend and foe together stood.
 Turning, they came to him more nigh ;
 Then flew his arrow swift and high.
 The maiden, fortunate to spy,
 With sharp and penetrating eye,
 The latent foe, the Huron brave
 Down pressed and sudden safety gave.
 Ojetka, then, from covert sprung ;
 His tomahawk aloft he swung,
 Fiercely aiming a deadly blow
 At the bold chief, who was not slow
 The war to wage, but ready stood,
 And strong and swift the foe withstood.
 Down powerless came Ojetka's stroke ;
 Now Thyendaga's anger woke ;
 Quick on the foe as lightning's flash,
 The Huron chief was seen to dash,
 With sharp tomahawk pierce the brain
 Of brave Ojetka sudden slain.
 " Victory !" cries the Huron brave.
 Seize him Iroquois, as they gave
 An answering shout, six from the chase
 Returning, quickening their pace.
 The captive brave was promptly bound
 And powerless borne along the ground,
 Two warriors between. Next their care
 Was to the dead. Reverent they bare
 Ojetka's lifeless corpse along,
 Raising aloud the mourning song.
 The Council met ; 'twas clearly shown
 In self-defence was overthrown
 Their comrade, Ojetka ; in vain ;
 They must avenge the warrior slain.
 To death the Huron they condemn ;
 The tide of wrath nought less could stem.
 To a strong tree they tied him fast,

That night they doomed to be his last.
 Sad Minnekoma watched all night,
 Hoping to aid her loved one's flight.
 Too vigilant the guarding train ;
 Her efforts all to save were vain :
 Ere chance occurred 'twas brightest morn ;
 Then was the Huron taken down,
 The worst to bear of torture known,
 His doom the gauntlet, cruel pain,
 Designed to calm the vanquished slain.
 Now ready all, the warriors claim,
 They sure have gained their cruel aim,
 When lo ! by a single strong bound
 The agile Huron clears the ground ;
 And swift as a sped arrow flies,
 The foe pursues ; his flight defies
 Their utmost speed, he gains the flood :
 For a moment on its margin stood,
 Then plunged into the friendly tide,
 Certain there the last trace to hide.
 The baffled foe gives up the chase,
 Finding no more a single trace.
 From vain pursuit they prompt are gone ;
 The Huron, now that he's alone,
 Refreshed his way-worn, aching limbs,
 To the hid cavern safely climbs.
 The Iroquois braves, no vestige found,
 Concluded sure the Huron drowned ;
 With shame and rage they sped away
 To gibes and laughter a sad prey.
 All danger past, the dark abode
 Our Huron left and took his road
 The tribe to join. They joyed to see
 Their valiant warrior once more free.
 Twice had the silver moon run through
 Her monthly course when to renew,
 Her sorrowing mind, the maiden bent
 Her lonely steps the stream anent,
 Where fell Ojetka. Long she stood
 In most sad and dolorous mood,
 Whispering oft her loved one's name,
 When lo ! from the dark cavern came,
 Rustling sounds of the shaking wood,
 A wood-dove cooed ; then sudden stood
 Thyendaga once more revealed
 From Minnekoma long concealed.
 None could express the maid's delight
 When sure no phantom met her sight ;
 The warrior's care promptly to guide
 To covert sure his happy bride.
 When night came down and darkness reigned
 O'er wood and plain, 'twas now to gain
 The river's side ; there waits his will
 A swift canoe. No fear of ill
 Now near, the Huron speeds away,
 Bearing his bride, that happy day,