

and surely if any merit can attach to the act, it is rather unjust to refuse to Col. Johnson what has been so generally admitted by so many participants in the action, when they who maintain the reverse position must be disqualified from pronouncing, from personal knowledge, any correct opinion on the matter. Soon after my arrival in this country I had occasion to address Colonel Johnson, then Vice President of the United States, on a particular offer made to the American Government, and in the course of a few private lines which accompanied the official letter, took the opportunity to allude to the circumstance of Tecumseh's death, which I stated I perceived, not without surprise, had been attributed to a different party.

Now it is evident that, had Colonel Johnson entertained any doubt whatever on the subject, or been in the habit of vaunting unnecessarily or unbecomingly of his immediate agency in the fall of Tecumseh, he would have been too glad to have availed himself of the testimony of one who had been opposed to him that day in the field. So far from this, however, he, with the modesty of truth, refrains from all allusion to the disputed circumstance, but taking my remarks as a matter of course, confines himself, as will be seen from the following letters (all I ever received from him), to the demi-official parts of my communication, addressed to him very soon after my arrival in Canada.

"SENATE CHAMBERS, 8th May, 1838.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your note and communication, which I will without delay place in the hands of the President (Mr. Van Buren), as you desire. If the matter should be referred to the Senate, as a branch of the Executive, it will always give me pleasure to promote your views, so far as may be consistent with my duty and benefit to my country.

"You had better correspond direct with the President on the subject, as he has the power.

"With great respect,

"R. M. JOHNSON.

"—, Niagara."

"UNITED STATES SENATE, 31st May, 1838.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your kind reply to my answer to your first. I performed the promise made, by enclosing your first letter and communication to the President of the United States, and I find that you have taken my advice, by writing direct to him, as he has the power of acting on your proposition; and I have no power unless transmitted to the Senate for action. I do not know any mode in which I can serve you more than I have. The subject of your letters, &c., is embraced in the power of the President and the Navy Department. The only way in which you could succeed in your wish is, to convince the President and the Navy Department that it would be their duty to make some arrangement or contract with you. It would be indelicate for me to interfere further than I have.

"Most sincerely yours,

"R. M. JOHNSON.

"—, Niagara."

About a mile beyond the scene of action, I came to a house which had ever been vividly impressed on my memory, by reason of a ludicrous circumstance which had occurred in it the day after our defeat and capture. When our baggage was overtaken and stopped by the enemy, our own women were the first to plunder it, so that the linen of the officers adorned some of these Amazons in much greater profusion than it did those of our tall Kentuckian captors. On the morning following the action, we were marched back to the house to which I have alluded—a sort of inn, which was kept by one Sherman—and were warming ourselves by a stove in the apartment into which we had been ushered, when some eight or ten of our soldiers' wives unceremoniously entered and threw themselves into chairs, while they unblushingly displayed some of the trophies they had obtained, coolly asking us at the same time if we would purchase them. Now, under ordinary circumstances, the appearance of these women among us would scarcely have been regarded as an intrusion; but as we were fully sensible, from their manner, that they were desirous of insulting us in our altered position as prisoners, the impertinence was not to be tolerated. One officer in particular remonstrated with them, and commanded that they should leave the room instantly, but this order, so far from being obeyed, called forth all the billingsgate powers of the ladies. They jumped up, snapped their fingers, put their hands on their hips, and favored the offender with such a volley of "slang" as had never before greeted his ears, politely intimating that they would be damned if they left the room for "such as we were," who stood in the same position with themselves, being only prisoners and without any power to compel them. And thus they went on, until the uproar terminated, not in their expulsion, but in our withdrawal from the reach of the venom of their tongues. Often and often since had that scene occurred to me, and the very position of the house in which it had taken place was so forcibly impressed upon my recollection that I recognised it at a glance. As I looked up at the sign—which doubtless had continued to hang there since I last passed the spot—I beheld the same name—Sherman—half visible in the dimness of a paint that had perhaps been washed by a thousand rains, and every feature of the dwelling was precisely what my memory had retained.

Pursuing my route from Sherinan's, I soon came upon the banks of the pretty river of the Thames, which I had first seen at London, and had occasionally since crossed on my journey, but which I now followed for some distance until I reached Chatham, in the county of Kent. Finding, on my arrival here, that the navigation was entirely open; and not only my ponies but myself being in need of some repose, I embarked my waggon on the steamer Brothers, and quietly pursued my way down the river to the place of my destination, Windsor, about three miles from my residence. No part of the Canadian scenery is more lovely than what is presented, on leaving Chatham, by the windings of the narrow and picturesque Thames. For about twelve miles this river runs between not very elevated but sloping and verdant banks, until these latter suddenly recede, leaving nothing visible for several miles farther, and until the stream disembogues itself into the Lake St. Clair, but a forest of tall rushes, affording shelter and nutriment, at the proper season of the year—spring and autumn—to myriads of wild ducks of every description and quality, and from the largest to the smallest in size. For miles around, as you at length issue into the lake, the surface of the latter is seen darkened, at short intervals of space, with huge flocks of these migratory birds, which afford not only abundant occupation to the sportsman, but constitute an important article of food. At the point where the beautiful banks of the Thames terminate, there is an auberge, overhanging the river in such a way that the passenger may step from the deck of the steamer to the covered gallery of the house, which is kept by a French Canadian, who has two or three very pretty and well-mannered daughters; and therefore, it may be presumed, that the sportsman who feels inclined to devote a few days to the pursuit of his game, does not consider it to be any very severe penance that, after the fatigues of the day, he should enjoy the meal, and luxuriate in the bed, which has been prepared for him by those very charming girls. Very many parties de chasse resort, in turn, to this house, and the name of Dauphin is unknown to few, gentle or simple, in the district.

It was late in April when I landed at Windsor, having been altogether nearly two months, including my stoppages at Côteau-du-Lac, Cornwall, Brockville, Toronto, and London, on my route from Montreal, and during this period my ponies had brought me, a great part of the way through most execrable roads, a distance of upwards of five hundred miles. Indeed, after their rest on board the steamer, they seemed as fresh and as eager as ever, and although they had but three miles further to go, they would I am sure have accomplished another five hundred in much less time than had been squandered on the recent journey. But they were never doomed to undergo this trial. I had written to have their stable well supplied with wherewithal to indulge themselves at the end of their toil; and here, after having made acquaintance with a very splendid Newfoundland dog whom I had left behind as a guard to his mistress, and who on recognizing me and observing this addition to the domestic establishment had manifested unbounded delight, they were for a season left to their straw beds and well-earned repose.

## CHAPTER X.

My return to Sandwich by no means implied a termination of my wanderings. The lease of my "den," with the hangman's projection to it, which I had taken for only twelve months, was to expire in a few weeks, and I should then be at liberty to retrace a great portion of my journey, and enter upon the occupation of "Rock Cottage," my new purchase at Brockville. The first consideration was the disposal of my furniture, and this was effected in a manner to impress me somewhat forcibly with the very wide difference which exists between the two simple acts of buying and selling. Owing to the utter impossibility of procuring the most common articles of household furniture on the Canadian shore, I had been under the necessity of supplying myself at Detroit, and at prices which were far from low. The whole was sold for about one fourth of what I had paid for it, and thus was my first initiation into the economy of housekeeping effected. True, these being the good old times when Responsible Government had not started up like a bugbear to frighten the Collectors of Customs in Canada into vigilance and attention to their duties, I had managed to cross much of my furniture without being subjected to the very disagreeable process of being interrogated as to whence it came, and consequently had been spared some additional charges. But this advantage had been rather the fruit of dexterity and address on the part of the bold French Canadian whom I employed, and who was quite a character in his way, than a necessary consequence of being drawn to the American shore for what could not be procured on our own. Had I paid duty on all that I purchased, the fourth which I obtained on a subsequent sale, would have dwindled down to a mere shadow indeed.

Before leaving the Western District of Canada, which had served to revive so many of my earlier recollections, I accepted the invitation of a gentleman in Detroit to pass a few weeks with him, prior to attending a "monster" meeting which was to be