brought firewater, it was very strong and has slain thousands. Our seats were once large, and theirs very small: now they are a great people, and we have scarcely a place where to spread our blankets. The spirits of the woods and graves, of the waterfalls and lakes, cry aloud to us to seize the hatchet, and fight for them and for ourselves."

One fierce Mohawk cried, "Who is it, ye assembled braves and warriors, who is it that causes these waters to rise away far off among the snows of the chilly north and empty themselves into you boiling abyss? Who is it that causes to blow the loud winds of winter, and that calms them again in the bright days of summer? Who is it that rears up the shadows of these lofty forests and blasts them with the quick lightning at his pleasure? It is the same Great Being who gave to the pale faces a country on the other side of the great waters, and gave ours to us: and by this we will defend it." And with a whoop that made the forest ring again, and was echoed and re-echoed from cliff to cliff, from crag to crag far down the mighty river, he flung his tomahawk against a neighbouring tree, where it sank quivering up to the very handle. Many a brave sprang to his feet in wild excitement, madly brandishing his knife; and for a time war, bloody and disastrous, seemed coming upon the land. But there arose other chiefs who in smooth and gentle tones poured oil upon the troubled waters, advocating more pacific measures, deprecating the idea of war, and showing the advantages that would accrue to them from living in friendship with the people of the United States. In the end the peace party prevailed, and it was determined to bury their angry passions and maintain It was also unanimously resolved to peace. meet the Americans in a grand council, to be holden at an early date, at some convenient spot on the south side of the Lake, to arrange

a permanent treaty on terms agreeable to all.

Thus ended the great council of Niagara, and every one returned to his own home, to meet again shortly at the Miami Rapids.

There had come to the assembly with

Brant, a young English officer, fair, tall, stout of limb and brave of heart; his strength and good nature had won for him the affections of all the Indians with whom he came in contact; but to our hero Tecumseh he seemed especially to attach himself, and, the council being dissolved, he accepted an invitation given by that Chief to visit him among his own tribe. Rapidly flew their light canoes along the wooded borders of the lake, and in little more than a week they arrived safely at the Shewanee village, which had been removed to the banks of the Miami of the Lakes, where also were assembled all the confederate tribes.

To do honour to the returned delegates, as well as to exhibit his own wealth and resources, the Chief who had been at the head of affairs during Tecumseh's absence, gave a grand entertainment, inviting all the warriors in the village to the feast. The invitation was short, simple, and to the point: "Come and eat," were the words addressed by the messenger to the Englishman, and he was sufficiently acquainted with Indian habits to know that go he must, or else give the direct offence to the expectant host; so straightway he repaired to the hut where the feast was provided. Each guest as he entered saluted the entertainer with the monosyllabic grunt " Ho!" and forthwith squatted himself on the ground beside his predecessor. Proceedings were begun by a long lugubrious chant, (after the fashion of the court of the pious Saint Edward the Confessor.) After this grace, the host, whom etiquette forbade to sit, proclaimed the contents of the kettles that hung steaming and hissing over the fire, while the attendant squaws ladled out the messes into the bowls that each guest had brought with him With talking, singing, laughing and smoking the company sat on till the morning dawned clear and bright.

Fortunately for our white friend this had not been one of those religious feasts so common among the Indians, for on such occasions enormous portions are set before the guests, and each one must remain in his place until he has devoured every scrap allotted to him. If he were unable to eat all his host would feel himself grossly insultedthe whole tribe would be shocked at the grievous breach of good manners-while the guardian spirits, imagining themselves slighted and despised, would take summary vengeance on the whole community: sickness, distress famine fall upon the nation.

CHAPTER VII.

SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR.

In consequence of the close proximity of the many strangers who had enected their wigwams and huts near the Shewanee village, Miriam Howard now spent the greater portion of her time in her own tent, conversing with her Indian servant or practising the accomplishments of Indian maidens.

The day after the feast, Tecumseh and his new friend went to seek her, and found her embroidering a pair of moccasins, wherein she intended to incase her own little well-

in the bearded stranger Percy Seaforth, the fair haired lover of her girlish days, her first impulse was to throw herself into his arms and beseech him to take her away, but second thoughts told her that by such demonstrations of love she would arouse the jealous feelings slumbering in the dusky breast of Tecumseh. so she determined not to disclose herself to Seaforth at that time, but patiently to wait and watch. Most cordially did she greet Tecumseh, and poured forth a string of questions in the Indian tongue, paying little heed to him whom she longed to embrace, and who was far dearer to her than life itself. And Percy, on his part, failed to recognise in the sun-burnt maiden, clad in deer-skin, adorned with wampum beads, and surrounded by all the accessories of savage life, the lovely English girl from whom he had parted only three years before, for whom he had been searching for the last nine months through city and village, forest and wigwam, over the great continent of America.

Miriam succeeded in keeping up her disguise during the whole of the interview, for fortunately Tecumseh did not once address her by any name save her Indian one of Karagenasee; but the strain upon her mind was very great, and scarcely had her visitors left her when her overstrung nerves gave way, and she fell down in a death-like swoon. Thus she continued till the shades of evening began to close in, and night prepared to spread her sable robes over the encampment

With returning consciousness Miriam resolved to abide quietly until

"Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep,"

which comes to all without distinction of race or colour, had wrapt her strong arms around the Indians and stolen away senses, and then to set out and seek for Percy in the wigwam of the chief. Slowly did the minutes fly as the poor girl sat crouched up on her bed of furs, her temples throbbing, her on the best dist, her blood coursing like were rapidly gathering together from the far wild-fire through her swelling veins, her north of Canada and the plains across the whole frame quivering with excitement, joy, hope, fear. At last the moment arrived when her venture was to be made; for an hour, at least, not a sound of human being had she had she and then an Indian shot or a white man heard throughout the whole village silence. heard throughout the whole village, silence reigned unbroken save by the gentle plash of the waters as they rippled along the river's bank, or by the soft twittering of birds nestled in their downy beds high over head in the thickly-leaved trees.

Miriam arose and left her hut, noiselessly and swiftly did she glide by tent and wigwam until she came to that of Tecumseh; with trembling hand and fluttering heart she moved aside the buffalo skin which hung across the entrance and stepped in. It was one long low chamber affording accommodation to a dozen families, but Tecumseh's quarters were the third from the door; in a moment Miriam stood beside them, and at that instant the pale young moin, escaping from a fleecy cloud, cast its beams through an opening in the roof, and shone right upon the bed, revealing to the anxious visitor the fact that it was empty; the chief's tomahawk and gun were also gone and nothing was to be seen of either him or his English friend. Sad and weary the poor girl turned away, and with a sigh sought her own tent, there in silence and solitude to pour forth her bitter grief in a flood of scalding tears, with earnest prayers to the great God of Heaven not to lose her nor forsake her.

With the morning's light Miriam found that Tecumseh and Percy had gone to the council of the chiefs at the foot of the Miami Rapids, and thither we also must away.

CHAPTER VIII.

RED WAR AND WHITE DOGS

The American Commissioners encamped at the mouth of the Detroit River; here on the twenty-ninth of July they were visited by a deputation from the Indians, who asserted that the boundary line established at the treaty of Fort Stanwix was the Ohio River, and said that if the Americans desired to make a firm and lasting peace they must at once remove all their people to their own side of that stream. The Commissioners replied that by treaties subsequent to that of Fort Stanwix they had acquired the territory north of the Ohio and that they could not uproot the settlements formed there, but they offered the Indians a large sum of money if they would give up more land.

The deputation then went back to their council at the Rapids, where for fourteen days the debate was carried on with all the earnestness of men debating on a question of life or death. "What bursts of thrilling eloquence—the unsophisticated language of nature gathering all its metaphors fresh and glowing from her own rich storehouse, the flowers, the forests and the floods, the sun, the stars and the deep blue sky, the winds, the earthquake, the storm-were there poured forth but to die away forever upon the ears of those that heard them !"

Tyendinages and the Chiefs of the Six embroidering a pair of moccasins, wherein she intended to incase her own little well-favour of it spoke again and again; but the formed feet. At a glance Miriam recognised Shewanees, Wyandots, Miamis and Delawares,

would not listen to it. Did not the Ohio divide them from their foes. At last a written reply was sent to the anxious commissioners to the effect that the Indians would retreat no farther, that they would leave their bones in the land they now held, and that they would not meet to arrange a peace until it was conceded that the Ohio should be the boundary line. To this answer were attached the name of thirteen tribes, the emblem or totem of

each being roughly drawn opposite the name.

There is litle doubt but that the confederates were right in their demands, but alas! right prevails not in this world unless

accompanied and enforced by might.

After this several other attempts to make eace without yielding up what they had unlawfully taken were made by the Americans, but ineffectually.

At this juncture events seemed to threaten a speedy war between Great Britain and the United States, the dull mutterings of approaching conflicts were heard, and bitter feeling ran deep between the two nations; so the people of Canada, who had hitherto striven to bring about peace between the Indians and their neighbours, now began to stir the former up and urge them on to war by promises of assistance. According to the Indian accounts "all the speeches received from Governor Simcoe were red as blood. All the wampum and feathers were painted red, the war pipes and hatchets were red, and even the tobacco was of the same colour." The British also erected a fort at the foot of the Miami Rapids, which, while it served as a great encouragement to the confederate tribes in their efforts against their white foes, at the same time greatly irritated the American people, who considered the Miami within the bounds of their country.

Thus during the winter and early spring of 1794, the horizon became blacker blacker day by day and all things portended a mighty conflict between the Indians who scalped added fuel to the flames of hate that burnt in the breasts of the contending parties. Tecumseh was all the while most active against the whites, day by day as he returned home were new scalps to be seen dangling at his waist, seldom did he remove his war paint, continually was he on the war trail with his company of braves, seeking whom he

might destroy. In the monh of January, when the moon was rapidly waning, was held the great feast of the white dogs, an annual festival for the remission of sin. Two white dogs, spotless and without blemish, were strangled, not a drop of blood being shed, their faces were painted red and their bodies fantastically decorated with beads, wampum and feathers, and then hung up before the door of the council house. Then certain young men appointed for the purpose, put out every fire in the village, which had to be rekindled by virgin sparks from a flint; on the following days, dressed in bear skins, the youths went from lodge to lodge collecting presents and gifts; while thus engaged they received into their own bodies the sins of the whole tribe; in their turn they transferred the accumulated guilt of the people to the lifeless carcasses of the dogs, which on the ninth day were consumed by fire together with all the votive offerings. Then refreshed and relieved from the burden of their sins, at peace with the Great Spirit and each other, all the members of the tribe, rejoicing with feasting and dancing and smoking, prepared to enter upon the troubles and labours of another year.

(To be continued)

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