

mediate strife, yet these all proved to be groundless, and they crossed without molestation the sterile tract of country which lies south-eastward of Quebec, and pursued the elevated range of the Alleghanies, through the wild recesses of which they wound their steady course; now skirting some towering ridge, now plunging into the gloom of some deep defile, and now emerging from the portal of some rocky pass; giving exit beyond the mountain chain that towers, like a wall of defence, along the southern frontier of Canada.

And though the Indian's summer had, in its turn, departed, and flurries of snow occurred from time to time, while the air grew bleak and frosty, especially at night; still, Ellen, well wrapped in furs and with Conrad by her side to cheer and assist her, cared little for the hardships to which she was subjected, and which became insignificant when compared with those she endured at the time of her abduction.

As for Conrad, he was increasing daily in strength and stature, and catching something of the free and resolute air of an Indian warrior, as he strode along by the litter of Ellen, while, at the same time, a conscious pride and sense of innate power gave him a look of assurance that suited well the character of his face, impressed, as it was, with intelligence and a noble beauty.