

# NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.

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ADRIENNE CACHELLE.

BY ALICIA; AUTHORESS OF "THE CRUCIBLE," "RECOLLECTIONS OF A SEWING-MACHINE," ETC.

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For the benefit of new subscribers, we give a short synopsis of the former part of this tale. Adrienne Cachelles had left the Ursuline Convent at Tours to become one of a missionary sisterhood founded in New France by Madame de la Peltrie. The chief occupation of the nuns was nursing the sick Indians—an arduous and thankless work. About a year after their arrival, a hunting party brought into the hospital a young Frenchman, wounded in a fight with the Iroquois. The pleasure of seeing a white face among the dusky, impassive Algonquins, the comfort of ministering to a countryman on whom words of Christian comfort would not be altogether lost, and more particularly the way in which the dark pleading eyes of the patient followed his young nurse from couch to couch, roused feelings in Adrienne's heart which she strove in vain to quell, hardly acknowledging at the same time, even to herself, that they were at variance with her duties as a nun.

Among the prominent converts of that year was Sessewa, of the tribe of the Atticamegues. His betrothed, Mahanni, strove in vain to withdraw him from his new faith, and induce him to return to his people and make her his bride. To avoid her reproaches he accompanied one of the fathers on a mission to Lake Huron; but, growing restless, he was sent back from Lake Nipissing. In the meantime, Mahanni, stung by the scorn with which, as a forsaken one, she was treated by her tribe,

strapped on her snowshoes and started in pursuit of her faithless lover. Travelling day after day, whither she knew not, she at length fell into the hands of a band of Iroquois. While marching bound and helpless in their midst, she was seen by Sessewa from a sheltered hollow, where he and his companion had taken refuge; but the cowardly lover was too much occupied with his own danger to attempt a rescue. Mahanni, after undergoing many tortures, managed to effect her escape. With great difficulty, and not without imminent danger of recapture, she succeeded in reaching the banks of her own river, when her strength finally gave way. Here she was found by Claude de la Roche, who carried her in his canoe to the convent at Quebec, where his knock was answered by Adrienne Cachelles.

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## CHAPTER IX.

Adrienne stood so silently, not because she recognized Claude, but because for the moment she was startled. There stood at the portal not Father Pierre, whom she had hurried to meet, but a man in the dress of an Indian, bearing in his arms a figure wrapt, Adrienne saw at a glance, in no Indian garment; and though accustomed to admit persons of even stranger appearance within their convent walls, it was seldom admission was asked at night. But Adrienne was a brave little woman, and quieting her fears, she was about to speak