

grove in the form of iron-wood sapplings of the proper size.

All things being on board, our non-effectives were directed to make their way off along the bank, that the effectives might have freer space for action. And now the struggle begins. We meet the raging current. With poles firmly fixed, all push together; and now some must hold on to keep the trembling craft in its place, while the rest get new positions; and thus inch by inch, painfully we struggle on until our object is nearly accomplished. We are just ready to congratulate ourselves upon our success, when it becomes necessary slightly to change the direction of the boat to avoid a boulder, a larger surface was presented to the current, and in spite of all our efforts our poles tripped and we were dashed back down the cataract far into the deep water below. I need not say that we were deeply mortified at this defeat. But what was worse, our sailor captain fell into a violent passion and threatened to leave us to our fate. Hitherto the presence of a grave family had exercised such a restraint upon him, that he had avoided the use of language then too common with the sailors on the lakes. But now he poured forth oaths and curses with shocking volubility. Giving a little time for his passion to subside my father's mild rebukes at length produced their effect. The captain apologized and became cheerful, and pledged himself that if it was possible, and he believed it was, he would take the boat up the rapids. So now we prepare for a fresh attempt. We bring the boat up to the point, and as soon as it entered the current where the water was shallow, the captain and his man threw themselves into the stream and seized the boat by its opposite sides, they drag, while we push her forward. They sometimes found it was about all they could do to hold their own position against the strength of the stream, but even then they could keep the boat steady, and prevent her from swaying out of the line of the current, which the helm was scarcely able to do. Thus, after another severe struggle we finally mastered the situation.

Once above the rapids, scenery entirely new presented itself. Below, the river was skirted with marsh and swamp scarcely rising above the water, and extending, to the appearance far inland; but now the abrupt banks of moderate elevation confined the stream to its channel. The river itself was calm and majestic, from 150 to 200 yards in breadth, and of considerable depth. The shores, on both hands, were covered with an immense pine forest. Gigantic trees, the growth of ages, were thickly planted, down to the very brink. Shade and silence and solitude seemed to be in undisputed possession, until we invaded the precinct and slightly interrupted the continuity of the reign of the two latter; and who does not know that the shade of a dense pine wood is the shadiest of all shades amounting almost to darkness and chill. No sound reached us except a slight sighing from the tops of the lofty pines; and as to solitude, the place seemed to be almost destitute of animal life. The exceptions were an occasional flock of wood ducks which would take wing as we approached their retreats, and now and then the leaping of a fish from the surface of the water. Once however, in the course of the

day, we caught a hasty sight of human beings. A party of five or six natives of both sexes and of different stations (probably an Indian family) glided silently past us on the south bank. Their dog bristled up and would have barked at us, but a sharp blow from the elder female of the party reduced him to order, and he slunk out of sight. As to the people—even the children, though our appearance must have been very unusual and extraordinary to them, seemed to disdain to honor us with as much as a glance. Looking straight before them, and walking exactly in each others tracks, they quickly vanished from sight among the trees.

Owing to the delay in the morning, and also owing perhaps, to some decay, or diminution of the vigor and elasticity with which we commenced our voyage; though we had but a moderate current to overcome, we made but about 12 or 14 miles this day. As evening approached we came in sight of another rapid—serious, though not so formidable as the one of the morning. Nevertheless, though we had still an hour of daylight before us, we were not in heart to attempt its passage that night. So we quietly landed upon the bank.

The next morning we had but little difficulty in ascending the rapids, as from the nature of the shore we were able to avail ourselves of the use of our towing line. We now again found ourselves upon a smooth plain of stream, still shut in by the tall pine forest as before. A few miles further on, however, the pine forest receded, especially upon the north bank, and a rich alluvial plane flat, or river bottom skirted along the stream, and extending inland, in some places, for half a mile or more. In those alluvial tracts there were considerable clearings, and the Indians were busy in them, planting their corn, or preparing their ground for planting. They had no domestic animals except dogs and poultry, and no agricultural implements except the hoe and the axe. We also observed that the work people were all females. If any men were present in the field, they seemed to be there as spectators merely, taking no part in the work that was going on. Towards evening we came to a populous village, situated upon an elevated promontory which jutted down to the river on the north side. Two or three canoes were moored to the shore, and two or three men were loitering near them.

The men, in a friendly manner, beckoned us to land, which we did. They could speak no English, but they conducted my father to the house, or lodge, of the chief in the village. The old man, who spoke English with some facility, received him in the most hospitable manner, enquiring, first of all, if we needed any assistance, which we did not. He then advised that we should spend the night in the village, and offered the use of the Council House to lodge in. This hospitality was gratefully accepted by my father. By the direction of the chief the Council House was swept and dusted by the young people, who, especially the young women, also cheerfully offered their services to assist in carrying up from the boat such articles as would be required for the night. These services were offered with a manner so cheerful, cordial and respectful that we felt no hesitation in accepting them. Suspicion was disarmed, and no scruple was felt in intrusting these

wild young people with any articles which it might be convenient for them to carry. Of course no intelligible word could pass between us, but the girls good-naturedly smiled upon us as they passed and re-passed cheerfully chatting among themselves in their strange dialect, in low, soft voices; freely mingling with us while the service was performing, but as soon as it was completed they retired and became shy, so that we could scarcely get a glimpse of one of them again during the evening. With such abundant assistance we were all soon assembled in the Council House, except a man to keep the boat, a cheerful and not unhappy family.

The Council House was a well-built, low, log building; in dimensions, about 30 feet by 20, and 8 or 10 feet high at the eaves. Unlike any other building in the village, it had a shingled roof and a plank floor; and though all in one room, it had a fire-place at each end. The fire-place consisted, first, of a great hearth say, 6 feet by 7, paved with rough, flat stones; and, of a straight, rouble stone wall, about a foot thick, laid up with clay mortar against the logs to protect them from fire, and above this a *stick* chimney, in the form of a truncated pyramid, to carry off the smoke. In one of these fire-places a fire was kindled and culinary operations soon commenced. While these were going forward the old chief paid us a visit. He came in, supported by two younger men, probably his sons. He was very old, corpulent and blind. He was also in poor health, suffering from dropsy, of which soon afterwards he died. But he was cheerful, affable, and in the truest sense of that word, polite. He was pressed to join us at supper, but declined, seeming to think it would be improper of him to do so, but whether from the apprehension that he would thereby surrender his own dignity, or entrench upon ours, I cannot say. He, however, remarked that he smelt the perfume of the tea which was being prepared, and that he was very fond of that beverage, and that it was difficult to obtain, and if the good white woman would send a cup of it over to his house he would accept of it gratefully. The suggestion was at once acted on; a pot of the best tea was prepared, which together with some cups and saucers and a basin of sugar, and a few little delicacies, were taken to his house by a couple of our white girls, accompanied, however, by his own messenger. The next morning the old chief came in again, accompanied this time by two women, one of whom bore a large wooden bowl of meal, of their own manufacture, and the other, a brass kettle with water. The chief said he desired to present us with some Indian bread for our breakfast, and he wished it to be prepared in the presence of the white women, that he might see that it was properly done. The brass kettle was hung over the fire to boil. The meal was mixed with water into a stiff paste; into this a few beans were stirred; the paste was formed into cakes four or five inches in diameter, and an inch or two in thickness and slipped one at a time into the boiling water, the women always waiting for the water to be in an active state of ebullition before dropping in a subsequent cake. When sufficiently boiled the cakes were lifted out of the liquid with a wooden ladle, into a wooden tray, all of their own manufacture, and placed on the table. In the whole