

raised by this operation tore it off with an exultant and diabolical yell. Then the savages joined hands, danced around the mangled victim and sang several songs ; after which he was dragged off and tortured in the most revolting way until he died. In this manner was every man of the forty-five dispatched ; and when the bitter winter's morning dawned the butchery was completed. The queen made Edmund dress, and tried to win his confidence by little caressings and kindly looks, but he besought her by such words as she could understand, and by mute appeals, to take him away from the human shamble ; for the Indians tarried long into the day, drinking the rum which had yet remained in the casks. About noon such of the tribe as were not intoxicated prepared for departure, and rolling out the rum casks put them upon a sled. Then the camp with its mutilated dead was set on fire, and the murderous savages, inflamed with liquor and conquest, set out on their return, yelling, bellowing and brandishing their weapons like a horde of demons let out of Pandemonium. The band numbered about a hundred and twenty, and this comprised all the Indians in the Island. Toward the west lay their town, and thither the chief turned his head. Edmund marched second in order with the queen at his side. By signs, and sometimes by a word of broken English, she conveyed to him that she was a warrior queen ; that she always accompanied the braves to battle and at the chase, and that she counted as many cariboo for her bow as did her fierce lord who stood before her. She gave him some account, too, of the measures taken to surprise the king's men. For weeks several of the braves had been camped in the wood near the tilt ; every night they listened at the chinks and glared through every opening to learn if watch was still kept through the night ; and one hunter with keen ears, and who understood English through his traffic with fur traders on the coast, overheard a chopper say to his comrade on the day before Christmas eve, "Plenty of rum to-morrow night." And so the braves surmised that the white men would drink hard and forget the watch ; word was sent beyond the forest and across the dreary plain to the Indian town, telling the braves to come. They rose at an hour's warning, leaving

their wives and children to the care of a few old men and dogs, and made fast speed to the forest where wrought the king's men. One brave lay crouched in the shadow of the tilt while the revel went on, and his night-dark eye saw through a chink the king's men one by one roll into bed till none remained. Then he gave a cry like the saw-whet does in the night before the storm breaks, which cry was a signal to the braves to come forward ; and some others yeiped like a wolf for a like purpose. Two braves, by the aid of a slanting pine, got upon the roof and descended by the chimney. These, stealthily as the velvet-pawed tiger, unbolted the door and let in their comrades, who noiselessly and swiftly bound every man but one as he slept. And this one, too, a brawny-armed brave was about to put thongs upon, when the queen, who had seen him sleeping and admired his amber-tinted flaxen hair, waved him back and signified that the captive had her patronage. And she tried to tell him as they passed over the dreary plain in the face of the keen, complaining wind, that in the town whitherto they were bound, was her daughter, the comeliest maiden among all the Indian girls, and that she would give her to him for wife. And when he looked disconsolate at hearing this she shook her head with a half pettish, half imperious air, and then began to show to him the wilderness where in the autumn and winter they hunted the huge herds of deer that with the proper season pass from the north to the south, and from the south to the north again. And of the otter, too, whose bore could be seen along the march, she told him ; and of the beaver that during the late autumn rains built dams and new winter houses, and submerged acres of low land by its crafty operations. He was supple and quick of motion, this sturdy queen made him to understand, and he would be able to hunt the deer and spear the fishes ; and over all the land, and she pointed to the east, to the west, to the north and to the south, he would roam by and by with the tribe ; he would have his own wigwam, and while he was on the plains or among the hills the fair Indian maiden would put fringe upon his hunting jacket and beads upon his moccasins.

And while they were crossing a valley wherein grew some dismal larch and scrag-