

ing around fires, and singing their war-songs. Both forces were very large and a desperate struggle was inevitable. The Ojibways proceeded down the lake and formed their very large fleet of canoes in order for battle, and slowly proceeded with lights on their bows towards the Narrows. The scene which was to follow was too dreadful to be enacted in the light of day, for the sun hurriedly passed behind the western hills leaving the darkness to hide the awful carnage. Slowly the Ojibways proceeded, and the entire force of the intruding Iroquois was at the water's edge at the narrows to prevent the landing. But the Ojibways were at home, and they had defences that the intruders knew not of, for as their advance guards of canoes proceeded with torches and great noise, they made in the darkness, a systematic landing of their warriors behind a point of the west shore by means of other canoes. They had a system of secret run-ways in the thick undergrowth, and through these the warriors flanked the usurpers, and just as they supposed the great fleet was to land they were surprised from the rear and there was no possible escape. They were actually driven off into the water, and were literally harpooned by those in the canoes. Many doubtless tried to escape up the precipice which was clearly impossible, and the legend tells us that not a man escaped. That this should be made a great object lesson to other intruders, the victorious Ojibways took the blood of the slain and mixed it with red hematite, iron ore, and some persistent oil and painted these strange notices of warning all along the great precipice, thereby giving due notice to all intruding tribes of the sure fate that awaited them.

Unfortunately, out of the probable hundreds of paintings, only about forty or fifty can be seen now, owing to the unusually high water in the lake during the last half century, due to the lumber dams, but many of them are still clearly visible as shown in the report of the Minister of Education of Ontario, previously referred to. So far as we know, no one has ever interpreted these strange symbols and characters, but it is expected that some one may find the key to the language and tell us the story written in blood and iron upon this gigantic monument.

