

she raised him up that it was her lover, her heart sank, for it was an apparently lifeless form that she held in her arms. But she soon summoned assistance. She gave a call as well-known as her name, and ere long her kinsmen surrounded her and constructing a rough pallet of branches and twigs, bore the seemingly dead man to her camp.

But he was not dead ; a blow aimed with deadly intent had rendered him senseless, but after she had succeeded in bringing back feeling and warmth to him, for days and weeks his life hung in the balance, while she devoted herself entirely to him—watching him, nursing him, and listening intently for the smallest word that came from his lips. She scarcely ate or slept during that time, her devotion was unbounded and as great as her love ; and she would willingly have sacrificed her life to save his.

At last she was rewarded. One day he looked at her with recognition in the look, and put out his hand feebly for her to take it. She did so, and a natural, healing sleep ensuing ; she sat for hours with his hand in hers, lest in the moving she should disturb him. His convalescence soon followed, and their marriage was hastened.

The old chief seeing the devotion of his child to the man she loved, consented to their union as soon "as the flowers came." Not a word was spoken of the catastrophe which had so nearly ended the happiness of La Belle Marie. No one seemed to be able to account for it, and no one cared to be the first to broach the subject.

It was on a glorious day in July that the wedding took place. From early morning La Belle's friends had decorated altar and altar steps with the beauties of the woods ; ferns and flowers were on every side, and the tribe had all assembled to witness the marriage of their loved one. They had objected to the restrictions the sacred edifice would put upon their demonstration ; they would have preferred seeing Marie married under the open blue canopy which the heavens spread above her, and amid the trees, birds and flowers that she had been born, cradled and grown up among.