

## TECUMTHE.\*

A POETICAL TALE, IN THREE CANTOS.

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ARGUMENT.

AMONG the tribe of the Shawanees inhabiting the country about a hundred miles to the south of Lake Michigan, there were two brothers, who, a few years before our last war with the United States, had gained great influence over their fellow warriors by qualities usually most valued in savage life. The one, who had persuaded the tribe that he possessed what in Scotland would have been termed second-sight, was known among them by the name of the Prophet, and seems at first to have been the favourite of the two; the other, Tecumthe, had without the aid of such inspiration, raised himself to the situation of a chief by his tried hardihood, and that natural superiority of genius which sometimes in civilized communities, and almost always in a rude state of society, will challenge deference from common minds. The tribe, under direction of the Prophet, ventured upon hostilities with their old enemy, the back-settlers of the States; and for some time carried on a most harassing contest against them after the Indian mode of warfare. At length, however, lulled into security by confidence in the supernatural powers of their Prophet, and neglecting that caution which is generally so marked a trait in the Indian character, they were surprised by an American corps in the dead of night, on the banks of the Wabash, and almost annihilated. It is probable that the survivors were too few to preserve the separate existence of a tribe, for Tecumthe, with a small number of warriors, having escaped the massacre, joined the Hurons, a friendly people, and came down with them as their chief to the British troops when the war in Canada broke out. If it be recollected that the Indian chiefs are almost always old men, and that the spirit of clan-ship is as strong among them as ever it could have been in the Highlands of Scotland, it will appear no small testimony to the superior qualities of Tecumthe, that before he could have been forty years of age he should have appeared as the recognised head of the Hurons, a tribe in which he was a stranger, and which is one of the finest bodies of the Indian people.

The first operation of the Americans on the commencement of the war was to collect a corps of between three and four thousand

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\* For this interesting article we and our readers are indebted to the pen of the ingenious author of "EUPHROSUNE," and several other prose and poetical pieces, which appeared in our last number, as well as of that animating production "THE CHERIVAKI," to which we endeavoured to do justice in a Review in the same number; and of another production called "*The Fall of Constantinople*," which we had the pleasure of introducing to public notice while editing another periodical publication.—EDITOR.