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## THE STORY

OF THE
UNFORTUNATE BUT
HEROIC HIGHLANDER.

ORNAMENTED WITH ENGRAVINGS.
WEILINGTON:
-rers)
PRINTED AND SOLD BY HOULSTON AND SON. 30LD ALsa
By all other Booksellers.
1809.


## THE

## UNFORTUNATE

## BUT

## HEROIC HIGHHLANIDER.

II WAS born in that part of our island which is called the North of Scotland. The country there, partly from the barrenness of the soil and the inclemency of the seasons, and partly from other causes which I will not now enumerate, is unfavourable to the existence of its inhabitants. More than half the year our mountains are covered with continual snows, which prohibit the use of agriculture, or blast the expectations of an harvest. Yet the race of men which inhabit these dreary wilds, are, perhaps, not more undeserving the smiles of fortune than many of their happier neighbours.

A 3

Accustomed to a life of toil and hardship, their bodies are braced by the incessant difficulties they have to encounter; and their minds remain untainted by the example of their more luxurious neighbours. They are bred up from infancy with a deference and respect for their parents, and with a mutual spirit of endearment towards their equals, which I have not remarked in happier climates. Thes circumstances expand and clevate the mind, and attach the highlditers to their native mountains with a warmth of affection which is scarcely known in the midst of polished cities and cultivated countries. Every man there is, more or less, acquainted with the history of his clan, and the martial exploits which they have performed. In the winter season we sit around the blazing light of our fires, and commemorate the glorious actions of our ancestors; the children catch the sound, and consider themselves as interested up supporting the honour of a nation, which is yet unsullied in the annals of the world, and resolve to transmit it equally pure to their posterity. With these impressions, which wergethe carliest I can rememper, you cannot wonder
that prisc M been stret He, shou diff wha sub: wat my roc det mil inc che the boc an lov ab wl . ve f9
their culties ds remore from their deare not rcumettach with nown vated less, , and rmed. azing prious catch rested ich is and oste,相 onder
that I should early imbibe a spirit of enterprise, and a love of arms.

My father was, indeed, poor; but he had been himself a soldier, and therefore did not so strenuously oppose my growing inclinations. He, indeed, set before me the liftle chance I should have of promotion, and the innupperable difficulties of my intended profession. But what were difficulties to a youth brought up to subsist upon a handful of oatmeal, torink the waters of the stream, and to sleep, shrouded in my plaid, beneath the arch of an impending rock. When, therefore, my father saw that the determined bent af my temper was towards a military life, he thought it vain to oppose my inclinations. He even, perhaps, involuntarily cherished them, by explaining to me, during the long lejsure of our dreary winter, some books which treated of military sciences and ancient history. From these I imbibed an early. love of truth and honour, which I hope has not abandoned me since; and, by teaching me whithrave and virtuous men have suffered, in e . age and country, they have, perhaps, prevented me from entirely sinking under my mipfortupes:

## THE HIGHLANDER.

One night in the autumn of the year, as we were seated round the embers of our fire, we heard a knocking at the door. My father rose, and a man of a majestic presence came in, and requested permission to pass the night in our cottage. He told us he was an English officer who had long been stationed in the highlands; but now, upon the breaking out of war, he had been sent for in haste to London, whence he was to embark for America, as soon as he could be joined by his regiment. "This," said he, "has been the reason of my travelling later than prudence permits in a mountainous country, with which I am imperfectly acquainted. I have unfortunately lost my way, and, but for your kindness," added he, siffiting, "I must here begin my campaign, and pass the night upon a bed of heath, amid the mountains." My father rose and received the officer with all the courtesy he was able; for in Scotland every man thinks himself honoured by being permitted to exercise his hospitality: he told him his accommodations were mean and poor, but what he had was heartily at his service. He then sent me to look after his visitor's horse, and set before him some milk and oaten bread, which
were all the dainties we possessed: our guest, however, seemed to feed upon it with an appetite as keen as if he had been educated in the highlands; and, what I could not help remarking with astonishment, although his air and manners proved that he could be no stranger to a more delicate way of living, not a single word fell from him that intimated he had ever been used to better farc. During the evening, he entertained us with various accounts of the dangers he had already escaped, and the service he had seen. He particularly described the manners of the savage tribes he was going to encounter in America, and the nature of their warfare. All this, accompanied with the tone and look of a man that was familiar with great events, and had borne a considerable share in all he related, so inflamed my military ardour, that I was no longer capable of repressing it. The stranger perceived it, and, looking at me with an air of tenderness and compassion, asked if that young man was intended for the service? My colour rose, and my heart immediately swelled at the question; the look and manner of our guest had strangely interested me in his favour, and the na-
tural grace and simplicity with which he related his own exploits, put me in mind of the great men of other times. Could I but march under the bathers of such a leader, I thought, nothing would be too arduous to be achieved. I saw a tong perspective before me of combats, difficulties, and dangers; something, however; whispered to my mind that I should be successfut in the end, and support the reputation of our name and clan. Full of these ideas', I sprang forwards at the question, and told the officer that the darling passion' of my life would be to bear arms under a chief like him; and that; if he would suffer me to inlist under his command, I should be ready to justify his kindness by patiently supporting every hardship, and facing every danger. "Young man," replied he, with a look of kind concern, "there is not an officer in the army that would not be proud of such a recruit; but I should ill repay the hospitality I have received from your parents, if I suffered you to be deceived in your opinion of the military profession:" He then set before me, in the strongest language, all the hardships which would be my lot's the dangers of the
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field, the pestilence of camps, the slow consuming languor of hospitals, the insolence of command, the mortification of subordination, and the uncertainty that the exertions of oven a long life would ever lead to the least promotion. "All this," replied I, trembling with fear that my father should take advantage of these too just representations to refuse his consent, "I knew before; but I feel an irresistible impulse within me, which compels me to the field. The die is cast for life or death, and I will abide by the chance that now occurs. If you, Sir, refuse me, I will however inlist with the first officer that will accept me; for I will no longer wear out life amid the solitude of these surrounding mountains, without even a chance of meriting applause or distinguishing my name."

The officer then desisted from his opposition, and turning to my parents, asked them if it were with their consent that I was going to inlist. My mother burst into tears, and my sisters hung about me, weeping : my father replied, with a deep sigh, "I have long experienced that it is vain to oppose the decrees of Previdence. Could my persuasions have avail-
ed, he would have remained contented in these mountains; but that is now impossible, at least till he has purchased wisdom at the price of his blood. If, therefore, Sir, you do not despise his youth and mien, take him with you, and let him have the advantage of your example. I have been a soldier myself; and I can assure you, with truth, that I have never seen an offiecr under whom I would more gladly march than yourself."

Our guest made a polite reply to my father, and instantly agreed to receive me. He then pulled out a purse, and, offering it to my father, said, "The common price of a recruit is now five guineas; but, so well am I satisfied with the appearance of your son, and the confidence you repose in me, that I must insist upon your accepting what is contained in this purse; you will dispose of it as you please for your mutual advantage. Before I depart to-morrow, I will give such directions as may enable him to join the regiment, which is now preparing to march." He then requested that he might retire to rest, and my father would have resigned the only bed he had in the house to his guest; but he abso,

lutely refused, and said, "Would you shame me in the eyes of my new recruit? What is a soldier good for, that cannot sleep without a bed? The time will soon arrive, when I shall think a comfortable roof and a little straw an enviable luxury." I, therefore, raised him as convenient a couch as I was able to make with heath and straw, and, wrapping himself up in his riding-coat, he threw himself down upon it, and slept till morning. With the first dawn of day he rose and departed, having first given me the directions which were necessary to enable me to join the regiment: but before he went, my father, who was equally charmed with his generosity and manners, pressed him to take back part of the money he had given us; this, however, he absolutely refused, and left us full of esteem and admiration.

I will not repeat the affecting scene I had to undergo, in taking leave of my family and, friends. It pierced me to the very heart ; and then, for the first time, I almost repented at being so near the accomplishment of my wishes. I was, however, engaged, and determined to fulfil my engagement; I therefore tore myself 1 3
from my family, having with difficulty prevailed upon my father to accept of part of the money I had received for my enrolinent. I will not trespass upon your time to describe the various emotions which I felt at the crowd of new sensations which entered my mind along our march. I arrived without any accident at London, the splendid capital of this kingdom; but I could not there restrain my astonishment to see an immense people talking of wounds, of death, of battles, sieges, and conquests, in the midst of feasts, and balls, and puppet-shows; and calmly devoting thousands of their fellow-creatures to perish by famine or the sword, while they considered the loss of a dinner, or the endurance of a shower, as an exertion too great for human fortitude.

I soon embarked, and arrived, without ariy other accident than an horrible sickness, at the place of our destination in America. Here I joined my gallant officer, Colonel Simmons, who had performed the voyage in another strip: This gentlcinan was, with justice; the most bed loved, and the most deserving to be so, of any affieer I have ever known: Inflexible in every
thing that concerned the honour of the service, he never pardoned wilful misbehaviour, because he knew that it was incompatible with military discipline; yet, when obliged to punish, he did it with suck reluctance, that he seemed to suffer almost as much as the criminal. But, if his reason imposed this just and necessary severity, his heart had taught him another lesson, in respect to the private distresses of his men: he visited them in their sicknesses, relieved their miseries, and was a niggard of nothing but human blood;-but I ought to correct myself in that expression, for he was rashly lavish of his own, and to that we owe his untimely loss.

I had not been long in America before the colonel, who was perfectly acquainted with the language and manners of the savage tribes that border upon the British colonies, was sent upon an embassy to one of their nations, for the purpose of soliciting their alliance with Britain. It may, perhaps, be not uninteresting, if I here give some account of a people whose manners and customs are so much the reverse of what you see at home. As my worthy officer, therefone, contented with my assiduity and improve
ment in military knowledge, permitted me to have the honour of attending him, I will describe some of the most curious facts which I was witness to.

You have, doubtless, heard many accounts of the surprising increase of the English colonies in America; and, when we reflect that it is scarcely an hundred years since some of them were established, it must be confessed that they have made rapid improvements in clearing the ground of woods, and bringing it to cultivation. Yet, much as they have already done, the country is yet an immense forest, except immediately upon the coasts. These forests extend, on every side, to a distance that no human sagacity or observation has been able to determine. They abound in every species of tree which you see in England, to which may be added a great variety more which are unknown with us. Under their shade is generally found a rich luxurious herbage, which serves for pasture to a thousand herds of animals. Here are seen elks, a kind of deer of the largest size, and buffaloes, a species of wild ox, by thousands; and even horses, which, hav-
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depth of winter. Money, indeed, and the greater part of what we call the conveniences of life, they are unacquainted with; nor can they conceive that one man should serve another, merely because he has a few pieces of shining metal; they imagine that the only just distinctions arise from superior courage and bodily perfections, and therefore these alone are able to engage their esteem. I shall never forget the contempt which one of their chiefs expressed at seeing an officer, who was rather corpulent, at the head of his men: "What fools," said he, " are these Europeans, to be commanded by a man who is so unwieldy that he can neither annoy his enemies nor defend his friends, and who is only fit to be a scullion!!' When they are at peace, they exercise the virtue of hospitality to a degree that might shame more polished nations: if a stranger arrives at any of their towns, he enters into the first habitation he pleases, and is sure to be entertained with all the family possess. In this manner he might journey from one end of the continent to the other, and never fail a friendly reception.

But if their manners are gentle in peace, they are more dreadful when provoked than all the wildest animals of the forest. Bred up from infancy to suffer no restraint, and to give an unbounded loose to all their passions, they know not what it is to forgive an injury. They love their tribe with a degree of affection that is totally unknown in every other country; for that, they are ready to suffer every hardship and danger; wounds, ad pain, and death, they despise, as often as the interest of their country is concerned; but the same attachment renders them implacable and unforgiving to all their enemies: in short, they seem to have all the virtues and the vices of the ancient Spartans.

To one of these tribes, called the Ottigamies, was Colonel Simmons sent ambassador, accompanied by a few more officers, and some private men, among whom I had the honour to be included. We pursued our march for several days through forests which seemed to be of equal duration with the world itself. Sometimes we were shrouded in such obscurity, from the thickness of the covert, that we could scarcely see the light of heaven; sometimes we emerged:
into spacious meadows, bure of trees, and covered with the most luxuriant herbage, on which were feeding immense herds of buffiloes; these, as soon as they snuffied the approach of men, which they are capable of doing even at a considerable distance, ran with precipitation into the surrounding woods. Many, however, fell beneath our attack, and served us for food during our journey. At length we came to a wide and rapid river, upon whose banks we found a party of friendly savages, with some of whom we embarked upon canoes, made of the bark of trees, to proceed to the country of the Ottigamies.

After three days incessant rowing, we entered a spacious lake, upon whose banks were encamped a considerable part of the nation we sought. As we approached the shore, they saluted us .with a volley of balls from their, muskets, which whistled just above our heads, without producing mischief. I and several of the soldiers instantly seized our arms, imagining it to be an hostile attack; but our leader quieted our apprehensions, by informing us that this was only a friendly salute, with which.
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a nation of warriors received and welcomed their allies. We landed, and were instantly conducted to the assembly of the chicfs, wl. . were sitting upon the ground, without external pomp or ceremony, with their arms beside them; but there was in their countenances and eyes an expression of ferocious grandeur, which would have daunted the boldest European. Yes, I have seen the greatest and most powerful men in my own country; I have seen them adorned with every external circumstance of dress, and pomp, and equipage, to inspire respect; but never did I see any thing which so completely awed the soul, as the angry scowl and fiery glance of a savage American.

As soon as our leader entered the circle be produced the calumet or pipe of peace. This is the universal mark of friendship and alliance among all the barbarous nations of Ainerica; and he that bears it, is considered with so much respect, that his person is always safe. This calumet is nothing but a long and slender pipe, ornamented with the most lively and beautiful feathers, which are ingeniously fixed along the tube. The bole is composed of a peculiar kind
of reddish marble, and filled with scented herbs and tobacco. Colonel Simmons lighted his pipe with great solemnity, and turning the bole first towards the heavens, then to the earth, then in a circle round him, he began to smoke. In the mean time the whole assembly sat with mute attention, waiting to hear his proposals; for, though we call them savages, yet, in some respects, they well deserve to be imitated by more refined nations. In all their meetings and assemblies, the greatest order and regularity prevaii; whoever rises to speak, is sure of being patiently heard to the end, without the least interruption. Our leader then began to harangue them in their own language, with which he was well acquainted. I did not understand what past, but it was afterwards explained to me, that he set before their eyes the injuries they had mutually received from the French, and the tribes in their alliance. He told them that their great father, for so these people called the King of Britain, had taken up the hatchet of war, and was sending an innumerable band of warriors to punish the insults of his enemjes. He told them that he had or-

dered him to visit the Ottigamies, his dutiful children, and smoke with them the pipe of peace. He invited their young men to join the warriors that came from beyond the ocean, and who were marching to bury the bones of their brethren, who had been killed by their mutual foes. When he had concluded, he flung upon the ground a curious string of shells, which is called the belt of Wampum. This is a necessary circumstance in all the treaties made with these tribes. Whoever comes as an ambassador, brings one with him to present to the people whose friendship is solicited, and if the belt is accepted, the proposed alliance is considered as entered into. As soon as our leader had finished, a chief of a stature superior to the common race of men, and of a most determined look, jumped into the middle of the assembly, and, taking up the belt, cried out in their language: " Let us march, my brethren; with the young men of our great father. Let us dig up the hatchet of wars and revenge the bones of our countrymen. They lie unburied, and cry to us for vengeance. We will not be deaf to their cries; we will shake of all delays; we will apc 3
prove ourselves worthy of our ancestors. We will drink the blood of our enemies, and spread a feast of carnage for the fowls of the air and the wild beasts of the forest." This resolution was universally approved by the whole nation, who consented to the war with a ferocious joy. The assembly was then dissolved, and the chiefs prepared for their intended march, according to the manners of their country. All the savage tribes that inhabit America are accustomed to very little clothing. Inured to the inclemencies of the weather, and being in the constant exercise of all their limbs, they cannot bear the restraint and confinement of an European dress; the greater part of their bodies, therefore, is naked, and this they paint in various fashions, to give additional terror to their looks. When the chiefs were thus piepared, they cane from their tents, and the last solemnity I was witness to, was dancirg the dance of war, and singing the song of death. But what words can convey an adequate idea of the furious movements and expressions which animated them through the whole of this performance? Every man was armed with a kind of hatchet, which is their
usual weapon in battle, and called a tomakawk. This he held in his hand, and brandished through the whole of the dreadful spectacle. As they went on, their faces kindled into an expression of anger, which would have daunted the boldest spectator. Their gestures seemed to be inspired by frantic rage and implacable animosity. They moved their bodies with the mest violent agitations, and it was easy to sce they represented all the circumstances of a real combat. They seemed to be engaged in clcse or distant battle, and brandished their weapons with so much fury, that you would have imagined they were going every instant to hew each other to pieces; nor would it have been possible, even for the performers themselves of this terrific dance, to avoid mutual wounds and slaughter, had they not been endued with that extraordinary activity which is peculiar to savage nations. By intervals they increased the horrid solemnity of the exhibition, by uttering yells that would have pierced an European ear with horror. I have seen rage and fury under various forms, and in different parts of the globe, but I mute confess, that every thing I have seen
elsewhere; is feeble and contemptible when compared with this day's spectacle. When the whole was finished, they entertained us at a public festival in their cabins, and when we departed, dismissed us with these expressive wishes: they prayed that the Great Spirit would favour us with a prosperous voyage; that he would give us an unclouded sky and smooth waters by day, and that we might lie down at night on a beaver blanket, enjoying uninterrupted sleep and pleasant dreams; and that we might find continual protection under the great pipe of peace.

I will not fatigue you with a recital of all the events I was engaged in, during the progress of the war. The description of blood and carnage is always disagrecable to a humane mind; and though the perversity of mankind may sometimes render war a necessary evil, the remembrance of its mischiefs is always painful. I will only mention one event, continually lamented in the annals of this country, because it is connected with the untimely fate of my noble friend and gallant leader.

It was determined by those who governed,
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that we should march through the woods upon a distant expedition against the French. The conduct of this enterprise was given to a brave but rash commander, totally unacquainted with the people he had to oppose, and unskilled in the nature of a savage war. We therefore began our march through the same trackless wilds I have described. We proceeded for several days, without any other difficulties thun the nature of the country itself produced, and without seeing the face of an enemy. It was in vain that the officers of the greatest experience, and particularly my worthy colonel, suggested to our commander the necessity of using every precaution against a dangerous and insidious foe. War is not managed, amid the forests of America, in the same manner as it is conducted upon the plains of Europe. The temper of the people there conspires with the nature of the country, to render it a continual scene of stratagems and surprise. Unincumbered with tents, or baggage, or numerous trains of artillery; the hostile warriors set out in small and chosen parties, with nothing but their arms, and are continually upon the watch
to we their enemies. Long experience has them a degree of sagacity in traversing e woods, which to us is inconceivable. Neither the widest rivers, nor the most extensive forests, can retard them for an instant. A march of a thousand miles is scarcely to them a greater difficulty, than the passage of an European army between two neighbouring towns. The woods themselves afford them a continual supply of provisions, in the various animals which they kill by the chase. When they are near their enemies, they frequently lurk all day in thickets, for fear of a discovery, and pursuc their march by night. Hundreds of them sometimes pursue their course in the same line, treading only in each others steps, and the last of the party carefully covers over the impressions which his fellows have made. When they are thus upon the point of accomplishing their purpose, the very necessities of nature are unheeded: they cease to fire upon the beasts of the forest, lest it should alarm the foe; they feed upon roots, or the bark of trees, or pass successive days in a perfect abstinence from food. All this our colonel represented to the general,
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and conjured him, with the strongest entreaties, not to hazard the safety of our army by an incautious progress. He advised him to send out numerous detachments to beat the bushes and examine the woods; and offered himself to secure the march of the army. But presumption is always blind; our general was unacquainted with any other than European warfare, and could not conceive that naked savages would dare to attack an army of two thousand disciplined troops. One morning the way before us appeared more intricate and obscure than common; the forests did not, as usual, consist of lofty trees, which afford a tolerable clear prospect between their trunks, but were composed of creeping bushes and impervious thickets. The army marched, as usual, with the vain ostentation of military discipline, but totally unprepared for the dreadful scene which followed. At length we entered a gloomy valley, surrounded on every side by the thickest shade, and rendered swampy by the overflowings of a little rivulet. In this situation it was impossible to continue our march without disordering our ranks; and part of the army extend-
ed itself beyond the rest, while another part of the line involuntarily fell behind. In the moment while the officers were employed in rectifying the disorder of their men, a sudden noise of musketry was heard in front, which stretched about twenty of our men upon the field. The soldiers instinctively fired towards the part whence they were attacked, and instantly fell back in disorder. But it was equally vain to retreat or go forward, for it now appeared that we were completely hemmed in. On every side resounded the fatal peals of scattering flre, that thinned our ranks and extended our bravest comrades on the earth. Figure to yourself a shoal of fishes inclosed within the net, that circle in vain the fatal labyrinth in which they are involved; or rather conceive, what I have myself been witness to, an herd of deer surrounded on every' side by a band of active and unpitying hunters, that press and gall them on every side, and exterminate them at leisure in their flight. . Just such was the situation of our unfortunate countrymen. After a few unavailing discharges, which never annoyed a secret enemy that scattered death unseen,
the ranks were broken, and all subordination lost. The ground was covored with gasping wretches, and stained with blood; the woods resounded with cries and groans, and fruitless attempts of our gallant officers to rally their men and check the progress of the enemy. By intervals was heard, more shrill, more dreadful than all the rest, the dismal yell of the victorious savages, that now, emboldened by their success, began to leave the covert, and hew down those who fled with unrelenting cruelty. As to myself, the description which our colonel had given me of their method of attack, and the precautions to be used against it, rendered me perhaps less disturbed than I should otherwise have been. I remarked that those who stood and those who fled were exposed to equal danger; those who kept their rank, and endeavoured to repel the enemy, exposed their persons to the fire and were successively shot down, as happened to most of our unfortunate officers; while those who fled, frequently rushed headlong upon the very death they sought to avoid. Pierced to the heart at the sight of such a carnage of my gallant comrades, I grew indif;
ferent to life, and abandoned myself to despair; but it was a despair that neither impaired my exertions nor robbed me of the faculties of my mind. "Imitate me," I cried, " my gallant countrymen, and we shall yet be safe." I then directly ran to the nearest tree, and sheltered myself behind its stem; convinced that this precaution alone could sec:ure me from the incessant vollies which darted on every side. A small number of highlanders followed my example, and, thus secured, we began tc fire with more success at the enemy, who now exposed themselves with less reserve. This check seemed to astonish and confound them; and, had not the panic been so general, it is possible that this successful effort might have changed the fortune of the fight; for in another quarter the provincial troops that accompanied us behaved with the greatest bravery, and, though deserted by the European forces, effected their own retreat. But it wias now too late to hope for victory or even safety: the ranks were broken on every side, the greater part of our officers slain or wounded, and our unfortunate general had eppiated with his life his fatal rashness. I

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cast my eyes around, and saw nothing but images of death, and horror, and frantic rage. Yet even then the safety of my noble colonel was dearer to me than my own. I sought him for some time in vain, amid the various scenes of carnage which surrounded me. At length, I discovered him at a distance, almost deserted by his men, yet stiil attempting to renew the fight, and heedless of the wounds which covcred him. Transported with grief and passion, I immediately darted forward to offer him my feeble support; but, in the very instent of my arrival, he recéived a straggling ball in his nosom, and, tottering to a tree, supported his fainting limbs. against the trunk. Just in that monent, three of our savage enemies observed his situatioh and marked him for their prey; they raised their hidrous yell, and darted upon him with the speed and fierceness of wolves. Fury then took possession of my soul; had I possessed a thousand lives I should have held them cheap in the balance: I fired with so unerring an aim that I stretch d the foremost on the earth; the second received the point of my bayonet in his breast, and fell in the pangs of death; the

[^0]third, daunted with the fate of his companions, turned his stepe another way. Just then a horse, that had lost his rider, was galloping along the wood; I bounded across the path, and, seizing him by the bridle, instantly led him to my leader, and conjured him to preserve his glorious life. He thanked me in the most affectionate manner for my friendship, but bade me preserve my own life. "As to myself," said he, "I do not wish to survive my country's dishonour; and, even had I such a wish, the wounds I have received would render all escape impossible." "If that is your resolution," said I, "we will die together; for I swear by the eternal majesty of my Creator, that I will not leave you." When he saw me thus resolved he consented to use my assistance, and with infinite difficulty I seated him upon the horse, which, holding by the reins, as I was then light and active, I guided along the wood with no inconsiderable speed. Fortunately for me we were not observed by any of our savage enemies; so that, flying through the thickest part of the forest, we left the danger behind, and were soon removed beyond the sight or hearing of the battle.
"Courage," said I, "my noble leader, you are now almost in safety ; and I trust you will yet preserve a life so necessary to your friends and country." He answered me with the kindest expressions, but with a feeble voice: "Campbell, I have consented to fly more for the sake of preserving your life, than from any hopes of my own. But since we are at a distance from yonder dreadful scene, permit me to alight; $I$ have consumed my small remaining force in the way, and now I faint from loss of blond." He sunk down at this, and would have fallen, but $\mathbf{F}$ received him in my arms; I bore him to the next thicket, and strewing grass and leaves upon the ground, endeavourtu to prepare him a bed. He thanked me again with gratitude and tenderness, and grasped my hand as he lay in the very agonies of death; for such it was, although I believed he had only fainted, and long tried ©very ineffectual method to restore departed jife. Thus was I deprived of the noblest officer and kindest friend that ever deserved the attachment of a soldier; twenty years have now rolled over me since that induspicious day yet it lives
for ever in my remembrance, and never shall be blotted from my sour.

I sat till night supporting the breathless body of my colonel, and vainly hoping he might return to life. At length I perceived that his noble soul was fled for ever; my own wounds grew stiff and painful, and exhausted nature required a supply of food. I therefore arose, and finding a spring that trickled down a hill at no gr:" distance, I refreshed myself by a copious draijat, and washed the clotted blood away from the hurts 1 had received; I then crushed some leaves, which the inhabitants of that country imagine salutary, and bound them. on with bandages I tore from my linen. I also found a few wild fruits, which past experience had taught me were innocent, with which I allayed the pains of hunger. I then returned to the thicket, and, creeping into the thickest part, endeavoured to compose myself to rest. Strange as it may appear, neither the forlorn nature of my situation, nor the dangers with which I was beset, were sufficient to keep me awake. My wearied and exhausted body seem-
ed to triumph over all the agitations of my mind, and I sunk into a sleep as deep and profound as that of death itself. I awoke next morning, with the first rays of the sun; but, more composed, I better understond the difficulties in which I was involved, and the uncertainty of my escape. I was in the midst of an immense desert, totally destitute of human assistance or support. Should I meet with any of my fellow-creatures, I could expect nothing but implacable cruclty; and even if I escaped their vigilance, what method had $I$ of finding subsistence, or of measuring back without a guide the long and tedious march I had trodden! Hope, however, and the vigour of my constitution, still supported me. I reflected, that it is the common lot of man to struggle with misfortunes; that it is cowardice to yield to evils, when present, the representation of which had not deterred me from voluntarily embracing the profession of a soldier; and that the providence of Heaven was as capable of protecting me in the forests of Anerica, as upon my native mountains. I therefore determined to struggle with the difficulties which surrounded me to the last,
and to meet my fortune like a man. Yet, as I still by intervals heard the dismal cries of the enemy, and saw their fires at a distance, I lay close till night in the obscurity of my thicket. When all was dark and still, I ventured abroad, and laid in my scanty provision of fruit and herbs, and drank again at the spring. The pain of my wounds began now to abate a little, though I suffered extremely from the cold, as I did not dare to kindle a fire, from the fear of discovering myself by its light. Three nights and days did I lead this solitary life, in continual dread of the savage parties which scouted all the woods in pursuit of stragglers, and often past so near my place of retreat, that I gave myself over for lost. At length, upon the fourth evening, fancying myself a little restored, and that the activity of the enemy might be abated, I ventured out and pursued my march. I scarcely need describe the various difficulties and dangers to which I was exposed in such a journey; however, I still had with me my musket, and as my ammunition was not quite exhausted, I depended upon the woods themselves to supply me with food. I travelled the greater part of the
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night, involving myself still deeper in these inextricable forests; for I was afraid to pursue the direction of our former march, as I imagined the savages were dispersed along the country in pursuit of the fugitives. I therefore took a direction, as nearly as I could judge, parallel to the English settlements and inclining to the south. In this manner I forced my way along the woods all night, and with the morning had reason to think that I had advanced a considerable distance. My wounds began now to pain me afresh with this exertion, and compelled me to allow myself some repose. I chose out the thickest covert I could find, and, shrouding myself as well as I was able, was soon overpowered by sleep. I did not awake till the sun had gained the meridian, and, creeping from my retreat, beheld with some degree of terror an enormous rattle-snake, that was coiled up full in my way and seemed determined to oppose my passage. This animai is frequent in the southern colonies, and is the most poisonous of all the reptiles that haunt the woods. He is in length from two to six fect, beautifully variegated with different colours; but the most
remarkable circumstance attending ham, is a natural noise that he produces with every motion of his tail, and which occasions too his name. I soon destroyed my hissing foe, and, taking courage for the first time to kindle a fire, I roasted him upon ihe embers, and made the most delicious meal I ever remember upon his flesh.

The want of food will reconcile us to many meats, which we should scarcely think catable. Nothing has surprised me more than to see the poor, in various countries, complaining of the scarcity of food, yet throwing away every year thousands of carcases of horses, which are full as wholesome and nourishing as beef, and are in many countries preferred to it. But, in general, every animal may be caten, and affords a salutary food; as to snakes, the poison of them is contained in the hollow of their teeth. Whep they bite, they instil their venom into the w.ound, which mixes with the blood, and, without a timely remedy, destroys the sufferer. But if you cut off the head, the rest of the body is not only wholesome but palatable, and $I$ have known it caten as a delicacy by many jahabit

The Highlander in the Forest.
ants of the colonies. Thus refreshed, therefore, I pursued my march through the same thick, gloomy country, without meeting the least appearance of any human creature; and at night I cut, with an hatchet that I had about me, some boughs, with which I erected a temporary shelter. The next day, as I was pursuing my march, I saw a deer bound by me, upon whose shoulders was fixed a fierce and destructive animal that resembles a tiger. This creature, which is about the size of a moderate dog, ascends the trees and hides himself among the branches, till a deer, or any other animal that he can master, passes within his reach. He then darts himself, with a sudden spring, full upon the neck or shoulders of the unfortunate animal, which he continues tearing with so much violence that he soon dispatches him. This was actually the case with the poor deer that past me; for he had not run an hundred yards, before he fell down in the agonies of death, and his destroyer began to regale himself upon theprey. I instantly saw that this was a lucky opportunity of supplying myself with food for several days; I therefore ran towards the ani-
mal, and, by a violent shout, made him abandon his victim and retire growling into the woods. I then kindled a fire with leaves and sticks, and, cutting off a large slice of venison, I plentifully refreshed myself for my journey. I then packed up as much of the most fleshy parts of the body as I could conveniently carry, and abandoned the rest to wild beasts. In this manner did I march for several drys, without wanting food, or seeing any prohable end of my fatigues. At length I found a lofty mountain before me, which I determined to ascend, imagining that such an elevation might enable me to make some userul discoveries in respect to ${ }^{\text {- }}$ nature of the country I had to traverse, ana, perhaps, present me with some appearance of cultivation or inhabitants. I therefore ascended, with infinite fatigue, a rough and stony ascent of several miles, in which I was frequently obliged to clamber up pointed rocks, and work my way along the edge of dangerous precipices. I however arrived without an accident at the top, which was entircly bare of trees, and, looking round me, beheld a wild and desert country extended to a prodigious distance. Far as my eye
could reach, 1 discovered nothing but forests on every side but one: there the country seemed to be more open, though equally uncultivated, and I saw meadows and savamnahs opening one beyond another, bounded at length by a spacious river, whose end and beginning were equally concealed from my cye. I was now so weary of this solitary kind of life, that I began to consider the inhabitants themselves with less apprehension; besides, I thought myself out of danger of meeting with the hostile tribes: and all these people, unless irritated by injuries or stimulated by revenge, are perhaps less strangers to the rights of hospitality than any civilized nation. I therefore reflected, that by directing my course to the river and following the direction of its waters, I should have the greatest probability of meeting with some of my fellow-creatures; as the natives build their villages near lakes and streams, and choose their bariks as a residence, when they are employed in hunting.

I therefore descended the mountain, and entered the level district which I saw before me. I marched along an open campaign country, for several hours, covered with a rank species of - E 3
grass, and beheld numerous herds of buffaloes grazing all around. It was here that an accident: befel me, which I will relate for its singularity, both in respect to the dangers I incurred and my method of escape. As I was thus journeying on, I discovered a prodigious light that seemed to efface the sun itself, and streak the skies with an angry kind of illumination. I looked round me to discover the cause of this strange appearance, and beheld, with equal horror and astonishment, that the whole country behind was in flames. In order to explain this event I must observe, that all the plain. 3 in America produce a rank, luxuriant vegetation, the juices of whici are exhausted by the heat of the summer's sun: it is then as inflammable as straw or fodder, and when a casual spark of fire communicates with it, the flame frequently drives before the wina for miles together, and consumes every thing it meets. This was actually the case at present: far as my eye could reach, the country was all in flames; a powerful wind added fresh fury to the fire, and drove: it on with a degree of swiftness which precluded. all possivility of flight. I must confess that I
was struck with horror at the sudden approach of a death io new, so dicadful, so unexpected. I saw it was in vain to fly; the flaming line extended for several miles on every side, und advanced with such velocity that I considered my fate as inevitable. I looked round me with a kind of mute despair, and began to enry the fate of my comrades who had fallen by honnurable wounds in battlc. Already did the confiagration scorch me in its approach, accompanied by clouds of smoke that almost suffocated me with their baneful vapour. In this extremity, foitune presented to my mind an instantaneous thought, which perhaps was the only possible method of escape. I considered that nothing could stop the conflayration but an actual want of matter to continue it; and, therefore, by setting fire to the vegetables before me, I might follow my own path in safety. The pleasure which the first glance of this expedient afforded to my mind, I feel incapable of describing. I saw myself snatched, beyond expertation, from a strange and painful death, and instantly pulled out, with a trembling hand, the flint and steel upon witch my preservation was to de-
pad. I struck a light, and presently kindled the driest grass before me: the conflagration spread along the country, the wind drove it on with inconceivable fury, and I saw the path of my deliverance open before my eyes. In a few seconds a considerable vacancy was burnt before me, which I traversed with the speed of a man that flies from instant death. My feet were scorched with the glowing soil, and several times had I been nearly suffocated with the drift of the pursuing smoke; but every step I made, convinced me of the certainty of my escape, and, in a little time, I stopped to consider at leisure the conflagration I had avoided; which, after proceeding to the point whence. I set out, was extinguished, as I had foreseen, and delivered me from all apprehension.

I pursued my way over the smoking soil, which I had rendered bare to a considerable extent, and lodged at night, as usual, under some boughs which I stuck up to defend me. In the morning I set out again, and soon arrived $?$ a spacious lake, upon whose banks I could plainly discern the signs of an American encampment. I hesitated some time, whether

I should again conceal myself in the woods, or deliver myself up to their mercy. But I considered that it was impossible long to continue this wandering life; and that, in the end, I must have recourse to some of these savage tribes for assistance. What, therefore, must be done at last, it was fruitless to delay; I had every reason to imagine that the people before me must either be favourable to Great Britain, or at least indifferent to the war, and in either case, from the experience I possessed of the manners of the natives, I did not think I had much to fear. I therefore determined to hazard every thing upon the probability of a favourable reception; and, collecting all my resolution, I marched boldly forward, and soon arrived at the encampment. As soon as I entered the village the women and children galicred round me, with the curiosity natural to mankind at the sight of an unaccustomed object. I formed a favourable conjecture from this apparent ignorance of Europeans, ard, walking on with a composed step and steady countenance, $I$ at length entered into one of the largest cabins I could find. When I was within, I saw a venerable old man,
whom I took to be a chief from his appearance, sitting at his ease upon the ground, and smoking. I saluted him with all the courtesy I was able, and placed myself upon the ground, at some little distance, waiting, with inward anxiety but external composure, for him to begin the conversation. After he had eyed me for some time with fixed attention, but without either sternness or anger, he calmly took the pipe from his mouth and presented it to me. I received it with infinite satisfaction; for, as I have before remarked, this is always with the American tribes the firmest pledge of peace and a friendly reception. When we had thus been seated for some time in mutual contemplation of each other, he asked me, in a dialect which I understood tolerably well, to eat. I did not think it prudent to refuse any offered civility, and therefore accepted the offer; and, in a little time, a young woman, who was in the back part of the hut, set before me some broiled fish and parched maize. After I had eaten, my friendly host inquired into my country and the reasons of my visit. I was just enough acquainted with the language he spoke to be able to understa nd


him, and to give an intelligible though imperfect answer. I therefore explained to him, as well as I was able, that I had crossed the great water with the warriors of the King of Britain; that we had been compelled to take up the hatchet against the French and their allies, and that we had actually set out upon an expedition against their colonies; but that we had been surprised by a lurking party in the woods; that in the confusion of the fight I had been separated from the rest, and had wandered several days through the woods. in search of my comrades; and that now seeing the tents of my brethren, the red men, I had come to visit them, and smoke the pipe of peace in their company. All this I with some difficulty explained to my entertainer, who listened to me with great'attention, and then bade me welcome in the name of his nation, which he told me was called the Saukies; he added, that their young men were dispersed through the woods, hunting the deer and buffalo; but they would soon return loaded with provisions, and, in the mean time, I might share his cabin and such provisions as he could command. I thanked him for his offer, and re-
mained several days in his hut, always entertained with the same hospitality, until the return of the young men from hunting. They came at last, in several boats along the lake, bringing with them a considerable quantity of wild beasts which they had killed. I was received by all the tribe with the same hospitality I had experienced from the old chief; and, as it was necessary to gain their friendship as much as possible, I joined them in all their hunting and fishing parties, and soon acquired a considerable degree of skill in both.

Hunting itself has something cruel in the practice; it is a species of war which we wage with brute animals for their spoils; but if ever it can be considered as excusable, it is in these savage nations, who have recourse to it for their subsistence. They are active, bold, and dextrous, to such a degree in all these exercises, that none of the wild animals they attack have the smallest chance of escape. Their parties generally consist of almost all the youth of their nation, who go in a body to particular districts where they know game is plentiful. Their common method is, when they arrive at a spot which
abounds in deer or buffaloes, to disperse themselves through the woods; and then, alarming the beasts in the neighbourhood, they drive them with shouts and dogs towards some common place, which is always in the middle of all their parties. When they have thus rouzed their prey, the various squadrons gradually advance towards the centre till they unite in a circle, and inclose a prodigious number of frightened animals. They then attack them, either with fire-arms or arrows, and shoot them down successively. By these means they are sure, in a single day, to destroy a prodigious number of different beasts. But it sometimes happens, that while they are engaged in the chase of other animals, they become a prey themselves to their enemies; who take this method of surprising them in the woods, and gratifying their resentment. This was actually the case with my friends the Saukies, and produced a surprising event; the consequence of which was my return to the English colonies in safety.

The Saukies had been long at war with the Iroquese, a powerful tribe of Northem Ameri-
cans in the interest of the French. The Iroquese had received intelligence of the situation of the Saukies' encampment, a:ad determined to surprise them. For this purpose, a thousand warriors set out by a secret march through the woods, and travelled with the silence and celerity which are peculiar to all these nations. When they had nearly approached the hunting grounds of their enemies, they happened to be discovered upon their march by four warriors of another nation, who instantly suspected their design, and, running with greater diligence than it was possible so large a body could make, arrived at the encampment of the Saukies, and informed them of the near approach of their enemies. A great council was instantly assembled, to deliberate upon the choice of proper measures for theeir defence. As they were incumbered with their families, it was impracticable to retreat with safety; and it seemed equally difficult to resist so large a force with inferior numbers. While they were in this uncertainty, I considered the nature of their situation and had the good fortune to find out a resource, which being communicated to my
friend the chief, and adopted by the nation, was the mean of their safety: I observed that the passage to the Saukies' camp, for the Iroquese, lay along a narrow slip of land, which extended for near a mile between two lakes. I therefore advised the Saukies to cast up a strong barrier at the end of the passage; which I shewed them how to strengthen with ditches, palisades, and some of the improvements of European fortification. Their number of warriors amounted to about four hundred; these I divided into equal parts, and, leaving one to defend the lines, I placed the other in ambuscade along the neighbouring woods. Scarcely were these dispositions finished before the Iroquese appeared, and, imagining they were rushing upon an unguarded foe, entered the defile without hesitation. As soon as the whole body was thus imprudently engaged, the other party of the Saukies started from their hiding places, and, running to the entrance of the strait, threw up in an instant another fortification, and had the satisfaction to see the whole force of their enemies thus circumvented and caught in a trap. The Iroquese soon perceived the difficulty and danger of F 3
escape. They however behaved with that extraordinary composure which is the peculiar characteristic of this people on every occasion. The lakes were at that time frozen over, yet not so hard as to permit them to effect a passage over the ice; and, though a thaw succeeded in a short time, it was equally impracticable to pass by swimming or on rafts. Three days, therefore, the Iroquese remained quiet in this disagreeable situation; and, as if they had nothing to apprehend, diverted themselves all this time with fishing. On the fourth morning they judged the ice sufficiently dissolved to attempt their escape; and, therefore, cutting down some trees which grew upon the strait, they formed them into rafts and embarked their whole force. But this couid not be done without the knowledge of the Saukies, who dispatched a considerable body of warriors to oppose their landing. It is unnecessary to relate all the horrid particulars of the engagement which ensued: I will only mention that the Iroquese at length effected their landing with the loss of half their number, and retreated precipitately to their own country, leaving behind them all the furs and skins which
they had taken in their hunting. The share I had had in this success, gained me the friendship of all the nation; and, at my desire, they sent some of their young men to guide me through the woods to the English settlements, and took their leave of me with every expression of esteem, and a coasiderable present of valuable furs.

These are the most important and interesting of thy adventures; and, as I have already trespassed too long upon your patience, I shall hasten to conclude my story: After this, I was employed in various parts of America and the West Indies, during the rest of the war. I suffered hardships and difficulties innumerable; and acquired, as my father had forctold, a little wisdom at the price of a considerable quantity of blood. When the war was ended, I found myself nearly in the same situation as I begath, except the present of my friendly Americans, which I had turned into money and remitted to England. I, therefore, now began to feel my military enthusiasm abated, and having permission to leave the service, I embraced that oppottunity of teturning to my country, fully deter-
mined to spend the remainder of my life amid my family and friends. I found my father and mother still living, who received me in the fondest manner. I then employed the little fund I had acquired to stock a farm, which I hired in the neighbourhood; and where I imagined my care and industry would be sufficient to insure us all a comfortable subsistence. Some little cime after, I marbid a virtuous and industrious young woman, who becane the mother of two lovely children. For some time I made a shift to succeed tolerably well; but at length the distresses of my country increasing, I found myself involved in the deepest poverty. Several years of uncommon severity destroyed my cattle, which is the chief supporit of the highlanders, and rotted the scanty crops, which were to supply us with food, upon, the ground. I cannot accuse myself of either voluntaly unthriftiness or neglect of my business; but there are some situations in which it seems impossible for human exertion to stem the torrent of misfortune. But wherefore should I give pain by a detail of all the miscries which I, and many of my poor
countrymen, have endured ?-I will, therefore, only mention, that after having suffered, I think, every distress which human nature is equal to support-after having seen my tender parents, ard last, my dear unfortunate wife, perish by the hardships of our situation, I took the resolution of for ever abandoning a country which seemed incapable of supporting its inhabitants. I thought that the milder climate and more fertile soil of America might, perhaps, enable a wretched wanderer, who asked no more than food for his starving children, to drag on a little longer a miserable life. With this idea I sold the remainder of my stock, and, after having paid whatever was due to my landlord; I found I had just enough to transport myself and family into eternal banishment. I reached a sea-port town, and embarked with my children on board a ship that was setting sail for Philadelphia. But the same ill fortune seemed still to accompany my steps; for a dreadful storm arose, which, after having tossed our vessel during several days, wrecked us at length upon the coast of Cornwall. All the crew, indeed, escaped,
and with infinite difficulty I saved my dear infants; but when I reflected upon my situation, in a distant country, without resources, friends, or hopes, I was almost inclined to think that we might all have been happier in the bosom of the ocean.

But the goodness of Providence was manifested in guiding me to the residence of the brother of Colonel Simmons, who possessed an estate at a short distance from the place where the vessel was stranded; and who, on hearing my name and the history of my sufferings, immediately recognised in me the Hignlander, whom the colonil had so frequently mentioned in his letters. This gentleman instantly reccived me into his house, and has since made an ample provision for myself, and taken my dear children under his protection.

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