'I am, as you see, going from an encampment of travellers, which lies over yonder swell in the land, to my own wigwam in doing so, I wrong no man.'

'All fair and true. And you got this young woman to show you the way, because she knows it so well, and you know so little about it.'

'I met her, as I have met you by accident. For ten tiresome years have I dwelt on these open fields, and never, before to-night, have I found human beings with white skins on them, at this hour.—If my presence here gives offence, I am sorry; and will go my way. It is more than likely that when your young friend has told her story, you will be better given to believe mine.'

'Friend!' said the youth, lifting a cap of skins from his head and running his fingers leisurely through a dense mass of black and shaggy locks, 'if I ever laid eyes on the girl before to night, may I——'

'You've said enough, Paul,' interrupted the female, laying her hand on his mouth, with a familiarity, that gave something very like the lie direct, to his intended asseveration. 'Our secret will be safe with this honest old man. I know it by his looks & kind words.'

'Our secret! Ellen, have you forgot——.'

'Nothing I have not forgotten any thing I should remember. But still I say we are safe with this honest trapper.'

'Trapper! is he then a trapper? Give me your hand father; our trades should bring us acquainted.'

'There is little call for handicrafts in this region,' returned the other examining the athletic and active form of the youth, as he leaned carelessly and not ungracefully on his rifle; 'the art of taking the creatur's of God, in traps and nets, is one that needs more cunning than manhood; and yet am I brought to practise it in my age! But it would be quite as seemly, in one like you, to follow a pursuit better becoming your years and courage.'

'Me! I never took even a slinking mink or a paddling musk-rat in a cage; though I admit having peppered a few of the dark-skin d devils, when I had much better have kept my powder in the horn, the lead in its pouch Not I, old man; nothing that crawls the earth is for my sport '

"What then may you do for a living, friend; for little profit is to be made in these districts, if a man denies himself his lawful right in the beasts of the fields."

"I deny myself nothing, If a bear crosses my path he is soon no bear. The deer begin to nose me; and as for the buffaloes, I have kill'd more beef, old stranger, than the largest butcher in all Kentuck."

"You can shoot, then!" demanded the trapper, with a glow of latent fire, glimmering about his small deep-set eyes; 'is your hand true, and your look quick?"

"The first is like a steel trap, and the last nimbler than a buck-shot. I wish it was hot noon, now, grand'ther; and that there was an acre or two of your white swans or of black feathered ducks going south, over our heads; you or Ellen, here might set your heart on the finest in the flock, and my character against a horn of powder, that the bird would be hanging head downwards, in five minutes, and that too, with a single ball. I scorn a shot gun! No man can say he ever knew me carry one, a rod."

"The lad has good in him! I see it plainly by his manner," said the trapper, turning to Ellen with an openly, encouraging air; "I will take it on myself to say, that you are not unwise in meeting him, as you do. Tell me, lad, did you ever strike a leaping buck atwixt the antlers? Hector, quiet, pup, quiet. The very name of venison, quickens the blood of the cur;—did you ever take an animal in that fashion, out the long leap?"

"You might just as well ask me, did you ever eat? There is no fashion, old stranger, that a deer has not been touched by my hand, unless it was when asleep."

"Ay, ay, you have a long, and a happy —ay, and an honest life afore you! I am old and I suppose I might also say, worn out and useless; but, if it was given me to choose my time, and place again,—as such things are not and ought not ever to be given to the will of men—though if such a thing was to be given me, I would say, twenty and the wilderness!—But, tell me, how do you part with the peltry?"

"With my pelts! I never took a skin from a buck, nor a quill from a goose in my life! I knock them over now and then, for a meal, and sometimes to keep my finger true to the touch; but when hunger is satisfied the prairie wolves get the remainder. No —no—I keep to my calling; which pays me better, than all the fur I could sell on the other side of the big river."

The old man appeared to ponder a little; but shaking his head, he soon musingly continued—

"I know of but one business that can be followed here with profit—"

He was interrupted by the youth, who raised a cup of tin, which dangled at his neck before the other's eyes and springing its lid, the delicious odours of the finest flavoured honey, diffused itself over the organs of the trapper.

"A bee hunter!" observed the latter, with a readiness that proved he understood the nature of the occupation, though not without a little surprise at discovering one of the other's spirited mien engaged in so humble a pursuit. "It pays well in the skirts of the settlements, but I should call it a doubtful trade, in the open districts."

"You think a tree is wanting for a swarm to settle in! But I know differently; and so I have stretched out a few hundred miles farther west, than common to taste your honey. And, now I have bated your curiosity, stranger, you will just move aside while I tell the remainder of my story to this young woman."

"It is not necessary, I'm sure it is not necessary that he should leave us," said Ellen, with a haste that implied some little consciousness of the singularity if not of the impropriety of the request.—'You can have nothing to say that the whole world might not hear.'

No! well, may I be stung to death by drones, if I understood the buzzing of a woman's mind! For my part, Ellen, I care for nothing nor for any body; and am just as ready to go down to the place where your uncle, if your uncle you call one, who I'll swear is no relation, has hoppled his teams, and tell the old man my mind now as I shall be a year hence. You have only to say a single word, and the thing is done; let him like it or not.'

'You are ever so hasty and so rash, Paul Hover, that I seldom know when I am safe with you. How can you, who know the dangers of our being seen together, speak of going before my uncle and his sons.'

'Has he done that of which he has reason to be ashamed?' demanded the trapper, who had not moved an inch from the place he first occupied.

"Heaven forbid! But there are reasons, why he should not be seen, just now, that could do him no harm if known, but which may not yet be told. And so, if you will wait, father, near yonder willow bush, until I have heard what Paul can possibly have to say, I shall be sure to come and wish you a good night, before I return to the camp.'

The trapper drew slowly aside, as if satisfied with the somewhat incoherent reason Ellen had given why he should retire. When completely out of ear shot of the earnest and hurried dialogue, that instantly commenced between the two he had left, the old man, again paused, and patiently awaited the moment when he might renew his conversation with beings in whom he felt a growing interest, no less from the mysterious character of their intercourse than from the natural sympathy in the welfare of a pair so young, and who as in the simplicity of his heart he was also fain to believe, were also so deserving. He was accompanied by his indolent, but attached dog, who once more made his bed at the feet of his master, and soon lay slumbering as usual, with his head nearly buried in the dense fog of prairie grass.

It was a spectacle so unusual to see the human form amid the solitude in which he dwelt, that the trapper bent his eyes on the dim figures of his new acquaintance, with sensations to which he had long been a stranger. Their presence awakened recollections and emotions, to which his sturdy but honest nature had latterly paid but little homage, and his thoughts began to wander over the varied scenes of a life of hardships, that had been strangely blended with scenes of wild and peculiar enjoyment. The train taken by his thoughts had, already, conducted him, in imagination, far into an ideal world, when he was, once more, suddenly recalled to the reality of his situation, by the movements of his faithful hound.

The dog, who, in submission to his years and infirmities, had manifested such a decided propensity to sleep, now arose, and stalked from out the shadow cast by the tall person of his master, and looked abroad into the prairie, as though his instincts apprised him of the presence of still another visiter.—Then seemingly, content with his examination, he returned to his comfortable post and disposed of his weary limbs, with the deliberation and care of one who was no novice in the art of self preservation.

"What; again, Hector!" said the trapper in a soothing voice, which he had the caution however, to utter in an under tone; "What is it, dog? tell his master, pup, what is it?'

Hector answered with another growl, but was content to continue in his lair. These were evidences of intelligence & distrust, to which one as practised as the trapper could not turn an inattentive ear. He again spoke to the dog, encouraging him to watchfulness, by a low guarded, whistle.—The animal, however, as if conscious of having, already discharged his duty, obstinately refused to raise his head from the grass.

"A hint from such a friend is far better than man's advice!" muttered the trapper, as he slowly moved towards the couple who were yet, too earnestly and abstractedly engaged in their own discourse, to notice his approach; 'and none but a conceited settler would hear it and not respect it, as he ought. Children,' he added, when nigh enough to address his companions 'we are not alone in these dreary fields; there are others stirring and therefore, to the shame of our kind be it said, danger is nigh.'

'If one of them lazy sons of Skirting Ishmael is prowling out of his camp to night,' said the young bee-hunter, with great vivacity, and in tones that might easily have been excited to a menace, 'he may have an end put to his journey, sooner than either he or his father is dreaming!'

"My life on it, they are all with the teams,' hurriedly answered the girl. "I saw the whole of them asleep, myself, except the two on watch; and their natures have greatly changed, if they, too, are not both dreaming of a turkey hunt or a court-house fight at this very moment.'

'Some beast, with a strong scent, has passed between the wind and the hound, father, and it makes him uneasy, or, perhaps he too is dreaming. I had a pup, of my own, in Kentuck, that, would start upon a long chase from a deep sleep; and all upon the fancy of some dream. Go to him, and pinch his ear, that the beast may feel the life within him.'

'Not so—not so,' returned the trapper, shaking his head, as one who better understood the qualities of his dog. 'Youth sleeps, ay, and dreams too; but age is awake and watchful. The pup is never false with his nose, and long experience tells me to heed his warnings.'

'Did you ever run him upon the trail of carrion?'

'Why, I must say, that the ravenous beasts have sometimes tempted me to let him loose, for they are as greedy as men after the venison, in its season; but then I knew the reason of the dog would tell him the object—No—no, Hector is an animal known to in ways of man; and will never strike a false trail when a true one is to be followed!'

'Ay, ay, the secret is out! you have run the hound on track of a wolf, and his nose has a better memory than his master!' said the bee-hunter, laughing.

'I have seen the creatur sleep for hours, with pack after pack, in open view. A wolf might eat out of his tray without a snarl, unless there was a scarcity: then, indeed, Hector would be apt to claim his own.'

'There are panthers down from the mountains; I saw one make a leap at a sick deer, as the sun was setting. Go; go you back to the dog, and tell him the truth, father; in a minute, I.'

He was interrupted by a long, loud and piteous howl from the hound, which rose on the air of the evening, like the wailing of some spirit of the place, and passed off into the prairie, in cadences that rose and fell, like its own undulating surface. The trapper was impressively silent, listening intently Even the reckless bee hunter, was struck with the wailing wildness of the sound. After a short pause the former whistled the dog to his side, and then turning to his companions he said with the seriousness, which, in his opinion, the occasion demanded—

'They who think man enjoys all the knowledge of the creatures of God, will live to be disappointed, if they reach, as I have done, the age of fourscore years. I will not take upon myself to say what mischief is brewing nor will I vouch that even the hound himself knows so much; but that evil is nigh, and that wisdom invites us to avoid it, I have heard from the mouth of one who never lies. I did think, the pup had become unused to the footsteps of man, and that your presence made him uneasy; but his nose has been on a long scent the whole evening, and what I mistook as notice of your coming, has been intended for something much more serious If the advice of an old man, is then, worth harkening to children, you will quickly go different ways to your places of shelter and safety.'

'If I quit Ellen, at such a moment,' exclaimed the youth, 'may I never...'

'You've said enough!' the girl interrupted, by again interposing a hand that might, both by its delicacy and colour, have grace a far more elevated station in life; 'my time is out; and we must part, at all events—So good night, Paul—Father—good night.'

'Hist!' said the youth, seizing her arm as she was in the very act of tripping from his side—'Hist! do you hear nothing? There are buffaloes playing their pranks at no great distance—That sound beats the earth like a mad herd of the scampering devils!'

His two companions listened, as people in their situation would be apt to lend their faculties to discover the meaning of any doubtful noises, especially when heard after so many and such startling warnings The unusual sounds were now unequivocally though still faintly audible. The youth and his female companion had made several hurried and vascillating conjectures concerning their nature, when a current of the night air brought the rush of trampling footsteps, too sensibly, to their ears, to render mistake any longer possible.

'I am right!' said the bee-hunter; 'a panther is driving a herd before him; or may be there is a battle among the beasts.'

'Your ears are cheats;' returned the old man, who, from the moment his own organs had been able to catch the distant sounds, had stood like a statue made to represent deep attention—'The leaps are too long for the buffalo, and too regular for terror. Hist! now they are in a bottom where the grass is high, and the sound is deadened? Ay, there they go on the hard earth! And now they come up the swell, dead upon us; they will be here afore you can find a cover!'

'Come, Ellen,' cried the youth, seizing his companion by the hand, 'let us make a trial for the encampment.'

'Too late! too late!' exclaimed the trapper, 'for the creatures are in open view; and a bloody band of accursed Siouxs they are, by their thieving look, and the random fashion in which they ride!'

'Siouxs or devils, they shall find *us men*!' said the bee-hunter, with a mien as fierce as though he had led a party of superior strength, and of courage equal to his own —You have a piece old man, and will pull a trigger in behalf of a helpless Christian girl!'

'Down, down into the grass—down with ye both,' whispered the trapper, intimating to them to turn aside to the tall weeds which grew in a denser body than common, near the place where they stood.

'You've not the time to fly nor the numbers to fight foolish boy. Down into the grass, if you prize the young woman, or value the gift of your own life!'

His remonstrance, seconded, as it was, by a prompt and energetic action, did not fail to produce the submission to his order, which the occasion now seemed indeed so imperiously to require. The moon had fallen behind a sheet of thin fleecy cloud which skirted the horizon leaving just enough of its faint and fluctuating light, to render objects visible, dimly revealing their forms and proportions. The trapper, by exercising that species of influence over his companions, which experience and decision usually assert, in cases of emergency, had effectually succeeded in concealing them in the grass, and by the aid of the feeble rays of the luminary, he was enabled to scan the disorderly party which was riding like so many madmen, directly upon them.

A band of beings, who resembled demons rather than men, sporting in their nightly revels across the bleak plain, was in truth approaching, at a fearful rate, and in a direction to leave little hope that some one among them, at least, would not pass over the spot where the trapper and his companions lay. At intervals, the clattering of hoofs was borne along by the night wind quite audibly in their front, and then, again their progress through the fog of the autumnal grass, was swift and silent, adding to the unearthly appearance of the spectacle. The trapper, who had called in his hound, and bidden him crouch at his side, now kneeled in the cover, also, and kept a keen and watchful eye on the route of the band, soothing the fears of the girl, and restraining the impatience of the youth, in the same breath.

'If there's one, there's thirty of the miscreants!' he said in a sort of episode to his whispered comments 'Ay, ay; they are edging towards the river—Peace pup—peace—no, here they come this way again —the thieves dont seem to know their own errand! If there were just six of us, lad, what a beautiful ambushment we might make upon them, from this very spot—it wont do, it wont do, boy; keep yourself closer, or your head will be seen—besides I'm not altogether strong in the opinion it would be lawful, as they have done us no harm —There they bend again to the river —now here they come up the swell—now is the moment to be as still, as if the breath had done its duty and departed the body.'

The figure of the old man sunk into the grass while he was speaking, as though the final separation to which he alluded, had, in his own case, actually occurred, and at the next instant, a band of wild horsemen whirled by them, with the noiseless rapidity in which it might be imagined a troop of spectres would pass The dark and fleeting forms were already vanished, when the trapper ventured, again to raise his head to a level with the tops of the bending herbage, motioning, at the same time, to his companions to maintain their positions and their silence.

'They are going down the swell, towards the encampments, he continued, in his former guarded tones; 'no, they halt in the bottom, and are clustering together like deer in council. By the Lord, they are turning, again, and we are not yet done with the reptiles!'

Once he sought his friendly cover, and at the next instant the dark troop were to be seen riding, in a disorderly manner, on the very summit of the little elevation. It was now soon apparent that they had returned to avail themselves of the height of the ground, in order to examine the dim horizon.

Some dismounted, while others rode to and fro, like men engaged in a local inquiry of much interest. Happily for the hidden party, the grass, in which they were concealed not only served to screen them from the eyes of the savages, but opposed an obstacle to prevent their horses, which were no less rude and untrained than their riders, from trampling on them, in their irregular and wild paces.

At length an athletic and dark looking Indian who, by his air of authority, would seem to be the leader, summoned his chiefs about him, to a consultation, which was held, mounted. This body was collected on the very margin of that mass of herbage in which the trapper and his companions were hid.—As the young man looked up and saw the threatning and fierce aspect of the groupe, which was increasing at each instant by the accession of some countenance and figure, apparently more forbidding than any which had preceded it, he drew his rifle, by a very natural impulse, from beneath him, and commenced putting it in a state for instant service. The female at this sight, buried her face in the grass, by a feeling that was, possibly, quite as natural to her sex and habits, leaving him to follow the impulse of his hot blood, but his aged and more prudent adviser, whispered, sternly, in his ear.

'The tick of the lock is as well known to the knaves as the blast of a trumpet to a soldier! lay down the piece—lay down the piece—should the moon touch the barrel, it could not fail to be seen by the devils, whose eyes are keener than the blackest snake's! The smallest motion, now would be sure to bring an arrow amongst us.'

The bee hunter so far obeyed as to continue immoveable and silent. But there was still sufficient light to convince his companion, by the contracted brow and threatening eye of the young man, that a discovery would not bestow a bloodless victory on the savages. Finding his advice disregarded the trapper took his measures accordingly and awaited the result with a resignation and calmness that were characteristic of the individual.

In the mean time the Siouxs (for the sagacity of the old man was not deceived in the character of his dangerous visiters) had terminated their council, and were again dispersed along the ridges of land as if they sought some hidden object.

'The imps have heard the hound!' whispered the trapper, 'and their ears are too true to be cheated in the distance. Keep close lad down with your head to the very earth, like a dog that sleeps.'

'Let us rather take to our feet, and trust to manhood,' returned his impatient companion—

He would have proceeded; but feeling a hand laid rudely on his shoulder, he turned his eyes upward, and beheld the dark and savage countenance of an Indian gleaming full upon him. Notwithstanding the surprise & the disadvantage of his attitude, the youth was not disposed to become a captive, so easily.—Quicker than the flash of his own gun he sprang upon his feet, and was throttling his opponent with a power that would soon have terminated the contest, when he felt the arms of the trapper thrown around his body, confining his exertions by a strength very little inferior to his own. Before he had time to reproach his comrade for this apparent treachery, a dozen Siouxs, were around them, and the whole party were compelled to yield themselves as prisoners.

From the New York Daily Advertiser.

CUBA IN 1827.

LETTER III.

Cuba was discovered in 1492, by Columbus who appointed Diego Velasquez, governor. To him there were 15 successors, acting in the same capacity, until the year 1601, at which time Gaspar Ruis de Pereda was appointed at the Havana, with the title of Captain General of the island. Down to this day, there have been in all 71 chiefs, including General Vives, the present governor. The island was occupied in one place on the south side, as early as 1505; but Havana was not settled till 1511. Its locality rendered it a favourable situation for vessels from the various parts of the Gulf of Mexico, to stop at, and this at first caused its growth. This place has always been the depot of great wealth, and particularly since the revolution of South America. These events have driven the old Spaniards from the new republics; and many of them who have brought wealth with them, have settled in Havana, in preference to returning to Spain.

The population of the Havana may be estimated at the present time at about 140,000; not more than half of which is probably within the walls. This number is given after having examined the subject as far as is possible, in a place where taking a public census is viewed with so much jealousy, that even one of the commissioners a pointed to this duty, ridiculed the report which he and others had made. The usual estimate of the residents is higher; and this may be looked upon as the medium of different opinions. Mr. Poinsett, in his remarks, has given a statement purporting to be official, in which the same number is given as far back as 1817. But this probably included Guanabacoa, distant one league from the city, and containing about 20,000 inhabitants. As the place has, however, increased rapidly since that period, the above, will, I think, be found not far from the truth.

The population is composed of Creoles, Spaniards, slaves and free negroes. Many of the latter were imported from Africa, before the Spanish and the English governments entered into their present treaty on this subject, and some since. For the execution of this treaty, there is established at Havana a Commission, called 'Commission mista,' and a judge from each of these governments has been appointed.

Henry T. Kibbee, Esquire, is there at the present time on the part of the English. In addition to these, there are usually one or more men-of-war stationed at Havana, which have the privilege of examining any vessels entering under any flag, in cases of suspicion In January last, a French vessel appeared off the Moro, and made the signal of a man-of-war. As it was evening, she could not enter in consequence of the land breeze. Apparently she was waiting till morning for that purpose; but during the night, she took advantage of the current, landed 450 slaves a little to the windward; and having in this way quieted the suspicions of the British commandant on that station, she next day entered as 'in ballast.' So provoked was this officer, that on boarding her he even ordered her sails unfurled, to see if he could not find one slave at least, that he might condemn the vessel. He missed the prize however, and had to confess himself out-generalled.

The slave trade is carried on, however, from the coast of Africa to the Brazil and Cuba, more even at the present time than most persons in our own country believe. There are 250 vessels called traders, employed in this business; and what is sufficient to make a man blush for the United States, many of her citizens are engaged in it. The crews, commanders, and sometimes owners of these vessels, are from our northern cities; and while they sustain fair characters are secretly plundering Africa to gratify their avarice. The temptation, to be sure, is great. A slave can be bought in Africa at about $10, and when he touches the shores of Cuba is worth from 400 to 500 Great caution is of course necessary in this proceeding; and hence all flags are hoisted, and all artifices resorted to, which the occasion may require. The writer of this is not speaking without information; nor are these assertions founded on any thing less than evidence.

A small Spanish schooner arrived at Matanzas, in February, with 150 slaves, although she could not have been above 80 tons burthen. She landed them before coming into port; but on the second or third day the slaves were introduced into the city—emaciated—almost naked, with an air of despondency and grief which their situation was well calculated to inspire.

FOREIGN.

From the New York American, May 7.

From Europe the numerous arrivals of yesterday brings us late, but not very significant intelligence.

The question of the greatest moment in England, the appointment of a successor to Lord Liverpool, remains undecided. Mr. Canning is the man indicated by popular opinion, but the aristocracy of England, the whole tory party—the high church party—the Lord Chancellor, and perhaps the monarch himself, are averse to his becoming the Premier.

The state of Spain seems to become more unsettled, and as to Portugal, we one day learn that the soil of Portugal is purged of the rebels, and next day, that they have re-entered upon it in force. Great inefficiency, certainly, is manifested in putting down this rebellion. As for the British troops, they have remained idle spectators of passing events, ever since they landed in Portugal. Their presence, doubtless, gives

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