

there occurred, unexpectedly, a hindrance which delayed their flight for seven or eight days; and, during the whole of that time, this poor little innocent never made known his mother's design. Such silence is rare at so tender an age.

[132] At length these two fugitives, seizing opportunity by the beard, dashed into the vast forests, taking with them but half of their lives, and even that was shared between fear and hope. In these great forests, the road is everywhere. They must shape their course by observing the Stars, without compass or needle. Having been already some days on the way, they espied some Hiroquois, who were returning from war, or from the hunt. Fear deprived them of their senses, and, in part, of their strength. She who had become our captive's companion bore with her a little infant, whom she had brought into the world a very few days before her flight; seeing that her milk was gone and dried up,—as much through fear and dread of her enemies, as by the great toil she had undergone in a journey so appalling,—and fearing, moreover, that the cries and wailings of the little one would be the ruin of both mother and child, she took its life. But the poor unfortunate woman did not save her own life by that death, for she was recognized, seized, and bound by these Hyroquois, that she might be food for the flames in their village; [133] but, dreading the fires of earth, and having no knowledge of those of hell, she, like one maddened, plunged headlong into these by a self-inflicted death.

While the enemy were in pursuit of this woman, the other so cleverly hid herself as to elude capture, and proceeded on her way all alone. At length, she