

Chippewa enemies, and consequently alarms were frequently, though falsely, reported. The scouts, who hunted no longer abreast of the navigators, but took an early morning start in advance of the canoes. At length a trap had been lost; and the only possible way of accounting for it was, that it had been stolen by their thieving enemies.

We had now reached a sandy plain, a beautiful spot for our resting day. The war-chief, who had now command of the expedition, had blackened his face and sung his war song in expectation of an attack from the Chippewas the next morning. He increased the number of scouts, directing them not to fire a shot, and to exercise every care in discovering traces of the enemy. About four o'clock the scouts came in, reporting having heard and seen all sorts of imaginable things their superstitious fancies could invent—foot-prints, gun reports, indications where fire had been made, the glistening from looking-glasses—for young Indian dandies often carry small looking-glasses attached to their belts, which, in the sun, reflect the glaring light a great distance. Other signs were also reported—buffalo, deer, ducks, geese, etc., going in all directions, as if escaping from the hunter, and *smelling* the enemy.

Not one word of any of these reports was true. It, however, accorded with our General Cut-Thumb's prediction, that the enemy were at hand. A council of war was forthwith called, by which it was concluded that we had been discovered by the Chippewas, and they would be upon us during the night. The warriors were directed to sharpen their knives, clean their guns, and have everything in readiness for battle. The women were ordered to extinguish the fires, and carry their children back to the bush; and the old and infirm to guard the lodges. The excitement was too great for me to describe; it was, however, confined to the women and children, for the warriors were quietly preparing their weapons for great slaughter.

At length Cut-Thumb requested me to do him the favor to join him in a raid he was about to make on the terrible Chippewas and take my artillery with me. To this I readily consented on condition that he would provide transportation for my gun, which