

retire to the woods, should I desire to avoid the murderous scene.

All was "hush," and if any one wished to smoke, he must retire to the rear, and hide the light of his pipe. All was extreme anxiety. At length the supposed paddling was heard at a distance, and as it became more distinct—I confess I fully believed the noise proceeded from the action of paddles—the braves threw off every incumbrance of dress, except a well-secured belt around the waist, in which to carry the carnage-knife and tomahawk. The critical moment had now arrived; one of the supposed canoes had reached the boundary. But one of the braves who had stealthily gone down to the beach to appropriate to himself the first scalp, and the earliest glory, yelled out—"Ska-teck!" the Sioux word for pelican; and up flew a hundred or more affrighted pelicans, that had been innocently swimming down the river, on a leisure foray against little fishes. Thus was suddenly and ludicrously brought to a termination my first and bloodless war adventure.

Cut-Thumb's ambition was only increased by this disappointment. He dreamed dreams which were predictions of great success, and two days after we had reaped our pelican glories, he blackened his face, gave the war-whoop, and sang his war-song. All the braves danced the war-dance around him. Wishing to see all of their folly, I accepted the invitation courteously tendered me to join the party. They were now to invade the enemy's country, and glorious success would be the certain result. At daylight the next morning, all were astir, and scouts sent in advance; and by ten o'clock, the remaining braves were in their canoes, and under way. The war-like Cut-Thumb was standing in his canoe, singing of the prowess and glories of the Sioux, and invoking his familiar spirit to be with them, and crown their adventure with bountiful success.

Our progress was very slow, and made with studied precaution. When we had proceeded five or six miles, we arrived at a place appointed to arrange the general's staff. It was an important appendage to a grand army. It consisted of two cooks or messengers—it would, perhaps, be more in military parlance to call them