

red swan. "Yes," replied the old man, "yes, we have seen it; but you are very far from it, for it passed here early in the day; but I will give you something to increase your speed, and you may overtake it if you faint not."

The young girl, at her father's bidding, repaired the moccasins of the young man, and prepared him to pursue his journey the next day. The next morning the young man arose, and looked out. He could still see the red streak in the sky left behind by the swan. He then turned to the old man, and begged him to give him his daughter. The old man replied: "Prove yourself worthy of her by overtaking the red swan. If you do this, she is yours."

The youth made an early start, and followed the track left by the swan, all that day. At night he came again to another wigwam, and found there an old man and his daughter, each occupied as were the two he had met the evening before; and from them he received the same greeting and treatment as had previously been given him. This day differing only from the other, in that the swan had passed the wigwam at a little later hour, and the daughter was more beautiful than the one met the preceding evening. The wooing of this one brought out the same answer: "Prove yourself worthy of her by overtaking the red swan. If you do this, she is yours."

Nine successive days passed by, each offering the same circumstances and conditions, save only, that each daughter was more beautiful than the last met, and the hopeful news was given that the red swan had passed at a later hour each day.

On the tenth day, the sky was perfectly crimson in its splendor, and the young man, fleet of foot, felt that he was nearing the prized object. Again in the twilight, he arrived at the door of a wigwam, and looking in, saw there an old man, sitting alone. Over a small fire was a cauldron, in which roots and herbs were boiling. The old man was absorbed in his duties, muttering to himself strange words. He did not look up, nor make any sign of welcome to the young man; but as the hunter was weary and hungry, and had met with similar habitations at the close of each day's journey, he was doubtless more daring than he would have