

the rifle; knowledge of the forest, the trail and the art of Indian warfare; the silent march, the stealthy attack, the hidden ambushade, Moreover Tecumseh was gifted with powers of oratory, with incomparable tactfulness in diplomacy, and above all else his accomplishments were crowned with a sense of honor, a nobility of character, unequaled in any of the heroes of his race.

Neither history nor romance hath a more thrilling story than is presented by the recital of the mere facts of Tecumseh's life. But we may not relate them here. During the period of the American Revolution, Ohio was the great battle ground of the contest between the Western pioneers and the Indian allies of the British. The valleys of the Scioto, the Sandusky, the Maumee and the Miamis were the tramping ground of the Canadian-British and their savage cohorts. For twenty years from the Battle of Point Pleasant (1774) to the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794) the revolution raged in the Ohio country.

In such a school of ceaseless war and continued bloodshed, Tecumseh was educated in the art of savage warfare and hardened in his hatred of the whites. After the close of the revolution in New England, where the contest lasted but seven years, the scarred and poverty-stricken veterans of the Continental Army sought new homes and another lease of life in the promised land of Ohio. Tecumseh with a prophet soul saw the final extinction of his people if the Western tide of white immigration were not impeded. Beginning in 1787 for three years he traveled amid the Western and Southern tribes of his race. It was a wonderful journey, extending from the Missouri and Mississippi, to the tribal centers of Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

In the Fall of 1790 he returned to his Ohio haunts, famous among all his people from the gulf to the Great Lakes. His Ohio country was still in the throes of deadly warfare. The Revolution was still being continued and the Indian tribes, urged on by British agents, were stealthily following the forest trails. The darkness of night was made lurid by the flames of the burning cabin and the solitude of the forest was broken by the rifle crack of the approaching savage, the groans of the dying frontiersman and the shrieks of his homeless and defenseless wife and children.

Little Turtle, the Miami, was the guiding genius of the tribesmen and rallied his warrior hosts to resist the invading armies of Harmar, St. Clair and Wayne. Tecumseh became the lieutenant and mainstay of the Miami chieftain, and at the battle of Fallen Timbers (August, 1794) led the Shawnee contingent and refused to give way to the advancing lines of Wayne, when Little Turtle, Blue Jacket and other chieftains sought safety in retreat. But the bravery of Tecumseh was unavailing. The victory of Mad Anthony Wayne, the "Toronado,"