

have escaped. With our rifles we could have picked them off, but this would have revealed our presence, enraged them against us and endangered our lives had we fallen into their hands, and would have been a cause for trouble between the Klickitat nation and the fur company, so we determined to avoid bloodshed. Three days were passed in this manner. During the last day no Indians were seen or heard, so we crept out of our hiding place and started down stream. It did not strike us that any serious trouble had occurred. We thought we had only to avoid this party and reach the Cascades to find a trading post and white men to protect us. To be sure, we had been warned and advised not to go, but we sought adventure, and thought our rifles could efficiently protect us. We passed quietly down the river and neared the Cascades in safety. Some little distance above the rapids are some beautiful islands. As we neared these without suspicion, and were passing by, a sudden war-whoop announced the presence of the savages, and immediately two canoes pushed out from the shadow of the trees and gave pursuit. Ned had good vision, aided by a good glass, and in a moment said it was the same party that had pursued us before. We bent to our paddles to reach the trading post, but as our boat cleared the island and the view opened, behold! the shore was bare, and no banner of old England floated from its staff. The trading post was gone, and Indian lodges were in its place.

"Our guide, on the up trip, had told us that at high flood it was possible to sweep the rapids. June had brought the melted snow of the interior ranges down and filled the river to its brim. Where the Cascades foamed in low stage there now were tossing waves and rushing waters, and we boldly headed the canoe to make the passage. There are supreme moments when the intelligence of minds in danger seems as one. We hardly spoke, but by a motion each signified the same thought. Zip, too, seemed to take in the situation, and lay down in the bottom of the canoe as still as possible. That scene and that hour are photographed on my memory indelibly. Above the rapids the current is still to the very edge of their rush. The islands we had passed seemed like bits of Paradise floating on the silent tide. The gigantic mountains and nearer precipices stood in grand relief, like 'Ossa piled on Pelion.' The shores wore summer's plumage and the dark mountains their sombre and unchanging evergreen. These made a scene of verdant beauty that can not be described. Soon we drew near the fateful rapids and then began a hand to hand struggle for life. One moment to clasp hands, to pat the dog's head, and each man was like a figure of bronze. Zip stood in the stern a moment and hurled defiance at our pursuers in a howl of rage that could be heard above the roar of the Cascades.

"We kept the prow with the current and added motion to give steerage. We had dallied in the South Sea surfs, and toyed with small cataracts, and that gave us nerve and poise. A tremendous surge and swell shook our egg shell and threw it a'oft; it trembled on the

brink of deadly whirlpools and foaming abysses and thus passed fiercely by the worst of the crisis. It was a moment only, though it seemed an age, and we reached smoother water. We had run the Cascades—a feat that has seldom been accomplished—in a seething moment of time. Below the rapids is a long and narrow island, and there we landed to rest a moment after our superhuman effort. We had no thought of being pursued, but looking back, saw another canoe tossing on the furious waters and then glide into the smoother current. We could have launched our craft and gone on our way, keeping the enemy at bay by shooting them as they drew near, but we hated bloodshed, had just come out of a terrible experience and needed rest. The matter was soon decided, for while we studied and thought the other canoe landed. Ned handled his rifle and looked at me, but I shook my head. They drew their bows as they came near, but we laid down the guns and gave a hand shake to each one, and all was serene. They, too, had had an experience in the rapids that disarmed their savagery and made them kind. The awful danger made them forget they were on the war-path, and we were soon the best of friends. The Indian words we knew were 'clarhiam six,' a common salutation. That was exchanged, and then we managed by signs.

"The surest way to the heart of an Indian is to fill his stomach, so we opened our stores and made a feast for them. We made coffee and passed it around in a tin cup. Then we drew out our smoking tobacco and pipes and passed them around, each one taking a whiff. We had, fortunately, filled their idea of hospitality and peace to the fullest. They were at the Cascades for the fishing season and were camped on the north side, their lodges on the level above the falls and on the rock terraces that rose above it. We had heard that the Klickitats were ruled by a woman, but did not know that this Indian queen had heard of us; but our guide had, evidently, informed her of our presence in her territory, and she had sent out her people to intercept and bring us to her. Kamiakin was a wise chief and brave warrior. His two sons had been killed in battle and he had only this daughter; he had trained her to succeed him, and she had the fullest confidence of her people. When forced to war she led them; in the fishing season she directed them, and she went with them on the great annual hunts. It is claimed, of late, that the Atlanteans came from their since sunken continent, ascended the Mississippi, crossed the country by the waters of the Missouri and Columbia, and established colonies on those streams and Puget sound. Since this theory was promulgated I have believed that this woman was a relic of that early race, and, therefore, unlike the common Indian. Brought up an Amazon, she was remarkable in many respects, and we determined on making her acquaintance. Our meal being over and the pipes smoked, we indicated by signs and what we knew of the Chinook dialect, that we wished to be taken to their chief.

"In the afternoon our canoes crossed the narrow stream north of the island, and following a trail, we soon