



"TILL, AT LAST, HE MET A SHAMIN."

Thirty days they journeyed eastward, till, at last, their eyes descried

The huge cedar where the bear king kept his captive Haidah bride.

Fortune smiled upon their mission, for the bears had hunting gone, Leaving Kinda-wiss and children in the cedar house alone. From the tree she quick descended when she heard the Haidah voice, For the language of her girlhood made her caloused heart rejoice; And her lover's gentle accents woke emotions in her breast, As with tenderness he gently told the story of his quest; Told her how no Haidah maiden, with the eyes of gentle dove, Had been able yet to win him from the mem'ry of his love. Flamed anew love's holy passion in the bear queen's breast; again Quissam-quedus clasped his loved one, as within the mountain glen He had held her to his bosom, while the murmur of the stream Had been music, sweetly soothing, like the music of a dream. Then with Kinda-wiss and children they made haste towards the land Where Pacific's restless waters beat upon Queen Charlotte's strand. As they journeyed through the forest, crossed high mountains, forded streams,

Pressing ever to the westward, where the sun god sinks in dreams On the bosom of the ocean, on a couch of burnished gold,¹² Kinda-wiss her sad adventures to her brave companions told.



"THERE TO JOIN, 'MID PEALS OF THUNDER, VAST ARMADAS OF THE SNOW."

On the day when her young lover was to meet her in the vale, She had ventured down the mountain, and soon lost the narrow trail. Now she realized her folly, and her footsteps turned again Up the rugged steep above her, hoping thus to reach the glen, Where the happy days of summer with her lover she had passed; But she wandered till exhausted by her struggles, and at last, In despair, fell forward, prostrate, mid the tangled vines and brush,¹⁴ With all hope fled from her bosom. Softly now the twilight hush Settled down upon the forest, and the gathering shades of night Spread a sable mantle o'er her. Thus she lay until the light Of the breaking morn the warblers of the forest woke to song. Then a sunbeam touched her forehead, as it felt its way along Through the interlacing branches of the salal bush¹³ and vine, Turned to amber and to scarlet, like the hue of crimson wine, By the gentle hand of Autumn. Slowly opened then her eyes. O'er her head a huge gray squirrel, looking down in mute surprise,

genitors of the Indians. This legend is especially marked among the Indians living about the base of Mount Shasta, where they believe the king of the grizzlies married the daughter of the Great Spirit, and thus became the Adam and Eve of the Shastas. In the Haidah legend here related the same idea is brought out. It is probable that the Indians have ascribed human attributes to the grizzly because he is the only animal for whose physical courage they have profound respect. By claiming him for an ancestor they can also claim to possess those qualities they so much admire. The tribes possessing these traditions are averse to slaying the grizzly, though they seem to have somewhat recovered from this feeling in later years. It is probable this aversion, like their ideas of the superior nature of animal, grew out of his prowess in battle and their fear to encounter him with the bow

Swept away the happy love dream that had made her slumbers sweet, And in agony of terror quick she sprung upon her feet, Shouting "Quissam, Quissam-quedus! Oh my darling, are you here!" Then her quick ears caught a rustling in the thimble bushes near, And she turned with expectation, when a figure met her sight, That made words of warmest welcome freeze upon her lips. In fright She sank down upon the fern leaves, her sweet eyes by terror dimmed, For the king of the fierce grizzlies, shaggy haired and giant limbed, Stood before her, eight feet tall from claw-filled foot to grizzled head. Gently came the monster forward, and in soothing accents said: "Fear me not, Oh, sweetest maiden, Haidah's fairest budding flower, You shall wed the king of grizzlies, and from this, my happiest hour, Reign as queen above ten thousand valiant bears that own my sway, And your slightest wish or summons least and greatest shall obey."

Speaking thus, the bear king gently took the trembling maiden's hand;

Led her, sobbing, down the mountain, toward the grizzlies' distant land.

Many days they journeyed slowly; but, at last, they reached the tree

Where the ursine monarch lived; and then he issued his decree,

That sweet Kinda-wiss should ever receive homage from the bears.

In a giant hollow cedar, only reached by outer stairs,



"KING OF THE FERCE GRIZZLIES, SHAGGY-HAIRED AND GIANT LIMBED."

Lived the bear king and his captive. When her little boy was born, In her heart the mother passion healed the rents that had been torn By the loss of her young lover, and when the last baby came Haidah land and Haidah lover were to her but empty name

and arrow, and that the abandonment of their former scruples on the subject is caused more by the substitution of the rifle for that inferior weapon than any relaxation of their religious ideas. Nor are the Indians alone in their admiration of the bravery and prowess of the grizzly bear, for the flag of the first Americans who sought to conquer California from the Mexicans bore a grizzly for its device, and the bear afterwards became the distinctive figure in the state seal.

NOTE 2.—The Haidah tribe is divided into various general families, each of which has a crest to designate it, such as the eagle, or choof, and the raven, or choon. Before the door of each house stands a pole with the lineage of the family carved upon it in the form of a blending of all the figures representing the different crests combined in the descent