

ORAMEL.

BY ANDREW BARNBY.

The following story is partly from the press of Mrs. Sigourney where it appears that Oramel, for some supposed injury, egged on the Mohicans to exterminate the Pequods.

At night within their fortress wall The Pequods held a festival. Ah, little thought they even now Their watchdogs barked the wary foe—

Ah, to the heathen stained in thought, Who grieves to find his home in not, What saintly samples priestcrafts prove

While faith his gentle spirit swayed, There came a rushing in the shade— The Pequod maiden heard his prayer,

Anen her lips essayed to speak, The blood to tinge each tender cheek ; Back from the secret dream which hath

She saw the Christian standing by ; The Fort that could no more defy ; The blood besmirching her breast

Five years rolled on, yet she remained Encouraged by that Christian care, And every summer added grace ;

One evening when the mottled sky Glowed glorious in the sinking sun, When heaven's serene immensity

There flashed in all their fervid force The vales by which those waters came ; Far by the river's reedy source

Again the dun deer bound along, Again she hears her sister's song, And tears bedim those sable eyes

What sudden step arrests her ears ? A real form from vanished years Close to her longing sight appears ;

As when an eagle high above The crag containing all his love, Poises his wing a transient while,

" Oramel, thou rememberest me, I saw it by thy flashing gaze, When on this hilltop suddenly

" O, living lover, every tone Of thine renews the gladness gone ; Once more below our cedar tree

" Oramel, since I saw thee last, My way with clouds was evercast ; The time is gracious in the sun,

To lay them all mine own before And I was glad to see thee bring Bright flowers, and birds of vibrant wing."

" Where is thy mother now ? and those Who led the vengeance of thy foes ? Where is thy home of peaceful green ?

And even now, should it be known My feet were on my father's sod, There is no Christian but would own

I come to lead thee to the land Where men are brave at my command, The Pale Face has no portion there,

Oramel raised her humid eyes, As mist's bedim soft azure skies, " The desolation of our race

Yet curse not those who might have brought A blight on me, but peace have given ; They taught my spirit life, they taught

" And is the white man's God and thee At peace ?" the gloomy chief replied ; " And can our wrongs forgotten be

Requite our race's wretchedness ? Their softened lies have filled thy ear Till truth can find no entrance there,

" O, Ontologon, I could leave The kindness of my Christian home, Once more the free-born air to breathe,

No tones like thine my heart has heard Since sitting by my mother's knee ; She knew not how my soul was stirred

Of how I longed to hear thy voice Fall softly over early air ; Of thine infant innocence I share ;

And oft when gazing on the sun Shed his last beams from hill to hill, I wished my day, like his was done,

Yea, Ontologon, I have sworn My feet may not forsake His road ; And thine with thee I gladly turn

As when by winds an ash is shaken, Ere fall, of many leaves forsaken, More storms can bear when these have left,

" Meet me, Oramel, yet once more ! I cannot leave thee to thy fate, But for thy safety you dim shore

He turned, and vanished in the shade, And night returned around the maid,

You who have borne the blame, and blight, Of scorn for love of God and right ; Tortured by loves incoherence

Again another day has gone, And silent evenings flared glow In lovely in the sky above,

Again another day has gone, The herds of starry space appear ; Each smiling from his ancient zone,

And, half revealed by light and shade, So softly sifted o'er the scene, Stood Ontologon and the maid

My heart's like streams of midnight rain My hopes are withered blossoms bare To scatter in the serpent's snare."

Madness, by fears of losing thee To him, my hated enemy, I speak the strong and stormy words,

The hills, the streams that we behold Spread forth in moonlight mistily, Our butchered brethren owned of old,

But now the shadows longer grow, And Ontologon too must go, An outcast in another land,

" I will go with thee, yea, forsake My home, thy future path to make Less desolate o'er many a hill ;

" Oramel, I must not deceive Thy spirit, tho' my answers grieve, For well I know the white man's vow

My heart is happier in its gloom Than thou could'st make it, if to come With thy feet's plague spot on thy breast

Oramel, hear ! our hunting grounds, Beyond the midnight thunder sounds, With all their herds, or fields of light,

Oramel, on ; again I plead— O lead me, let thy white feet lead Back to the Manitou, my guide,

Yon moving moon begins to lower, My bark is swaying near ashore ; My home beyond the hills is thine,

" Friend of my spirit, freely take My lowly future ; for thy sake More than this life I could resign,

" Then cleave to thy deceiver's side, And be a base betrayer's bride. A slave to his luxurious lust ;

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And when thy words fall in my ear : " I will go with thee, sudden light Burst upon my soul of night,

So have I yearned thy tones to hear ; And when thy words fell in my ear : " I will go with thee, sudden light Burst upon my soul of night,

" I cannot bear that thou shouldst be Pained in heart that I should leave ! I pine for thee, to be again

When last I saw thee leave our home, Aft' e'er forest hills to roam, I did not think such years of pain

At length, his soothing somewhat sped, He slow addressed the suffering maid ; His voice seemed mild, nor did unfold

" If thou wilt make my future thine, And be forever wholly mine, Nor even dreary death will dare

And the must speak her lover's doom. Tho' with her heart's blood words must come— Hew in her faithful spirit stroke

Then with a gesture slow he drove His still bark from the reedy cove Of alder shadows where it swung

Oramel stood there on the hill That overlooks the bending shore ; She watched her wavering hope, until

He did not raise his head or hand, He sought no signal from the land, No tender sign to check the pain

And o'er her soul the feeling came That she must bear his blighting blame For all their future's wreck and doom ;

And memory all his words retraced In fondness ne'er to be effaced, And round her spirit's tresses wove

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