

WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

末了的摩希干人
THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS

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末了的摩希干人

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〔英法兩國爭北美土地，各利用土酋爲助；法軍利用胡倫人（Hurons）的酋長馬伽（Magua），英軍有安伽斯（Uncas 卽所謂末了一個摩希干人 Mohicans）相助。英軍轍台被圍，軍長不派兵來援，台官孟洛（Munro）力盡約降，挈兩女逃避，被馬伽狙擊，馬伽捉兩女，英軍探子綽號鷹眼 Hawk-eye 與安伽斯等追尋兩女下落——譯者註。〕

這羣人到了一個地方的邊界，現在美國的居民還不甚曉得這個地方，不如他們曉得阿剌伯的沙漠或韃靼利的高原那樣清楚。這是一片不毛不平的地方，分開查木披倫河（Champlain）及哈特生河（Hudson），摩覆克河（Mohawk）及聖羅倫斯河（St. Lawrence）各支流。在我們這篇故事之後，地方的活動精神建設許多富而發達的僑居地，包圍這塊地方，但是到了現在，亦只有獵人或土人，深入這塊深密的野地。

因爲鷹眼及摩希干人屢次在這片大野地的高山及深谷走過，他們毫不遲疑的深入內地，他們受慣窮困艱難的痛苦，隨便就深入。這些旅行人很辛苦的走了幾點鐘難走的路，或靠一顆星作嚮導，或跟着溪流的方向走，等到後來探子吩咐暫停，同印度人商量片時，打火造飯，預備在他們這時候所在的地方過夜。

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS

CHAPTER XXI

"If you find a man there, he shall die a flea's death."

—THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.

The party had landed on the border of a region that is, even to this day, less known to the inhabitants of the States, than the deserts of Arabia, or the steppes of Tartary. It was the sterile and rugged district which separates the tributaries of Champlain from those of the Hudson, the Mohawk, and the St. Lawrence. Since the period of our tale the active spirit of the country has surrounded it with a belt of rich and thriving settlements, though none but the hunter or the savage is ever known even now to penetrate its wild recesses.

As Hawkeye and the Mohicans had, however, often traversed the mountains and valleys of this vast wilderness, they did not hesitate to plunge into its depths, with the freedom of men accustomed to its privations¹ and difficulties. For many hours the travellers toiled on their laborious way, guided by a star, or following the direction of some water-course, until the scout called a halt and holding a short consultation with the Indians, they lighted their fire, and made the usual preparations to pass the remainder of the night where they then were.

¹privations 窮乏; 缺乏.

Imitating the example, and emulating¹ the confidence of their more experienced associates, Munro and Duncan slept without fear, if not without uneasiness. The dews were suffered to exhale, and the sun had dispersed the mists, and was shedding a strong and clear light in the forest, when the travellers resumed their journey.

After proceeding a few miles, the progress of Hawkeye, who led the advance, became more deliberate² and watchful. He often stopped to examine the trees; nor did cross a rivulet, without attentively considering the quantity, the velocity, and the color of its waters. Distrusting his own judgment, his appeals to the opinion of Chingachgook were frequent and earnest. During one of these conferences Heyward observed that Uncas stood a patient and silent, though, as he imagined, an interested³ listener. He was strongly tempted to address the young chief, and demand his opinion of their progress; but the clam and dignified demeanor of the native induced him to believe, that, like himself, the other was wholly dependent on the sagacity and intelligence of the seniors of the party. At last the scout spoke in English, and at once explained the embarrassment of their situation.

"When I found that the home path of the Hurons run north," he said, "it did not need the judgment of many long years to tell that they would follow the valleys, and keep atween the waters of the Hudson and the Horican, until they might strike the springs of the Canada streams, which would lead them into the heart of the country of the Frenchers. Yet here are we, within a short range of

¹emulating 爭勝. ²deliberate 費商量; 費事. ³interested 注意; 休戚相關.

孟洛及旦肯(Duncan 他是英軍的少佐——譯者註。)學他們的榜樣，又要同他們的更富於閱歷的同伴們的深信不疑爭勝，也就睡下，倘容或覺得不安，卻是毫不害怕的，睡下了。當他們再走路的時候，露水已經蒸化了，太陽也把霧驅散了，放出烈而清朗的光，照在樹林。

鷹眼在前頭走，走了不多幾哩，就起首走得慢些，又更留心些。他屢次站着觀察樹木；當他快要過溪的時候，他先要留心察看水有多少，流得快慢，及水的顏色。他不相信自己的判斷，還要屢次鄭重的請教慶伽谷 (Chingachgook 他是安伽斯的父親——譯者註。)有一次正在商量的時候，哈華特 (Heyward 卽是旦肯——譯者註。)看見安伽斯很耐煩的又不響的站着，但是據他看來，安伽斯很注意聽他們說話。他很想同這個少年會長說話，要請教他應該怎樣進步；但是這個土人的鎮靜的及莊厲的態度使他相信，他自己同他一樣，都完全依靠這一羣人裏頭的年紀較長的人們的靈敏及明智，後來探子說英國話，立刻解說他們的爲難境地。

他說道，『當我見得胡倫人回家所走的路是向北行，那就不用着有多年閱歷的人說他們應該跟着山谷走，在哈特生河與荷爾力甘之間走，走到他們可以遇着加拿大諸河的支流，這就會引他們入法蘭西人所在的腹地。但是

the Scarroons, and not a sign of a trail¹ have we crossed! Human natur' is weak, and it is possible we may not have taken the proper scent."

"Heaven protect us from such an error!" exclaimed Duncan. "Let us retrace our steps, and examine as we go, with keener eyes. Has Uncas no counsel to offer in such a strait?"²

The young Mohican cast a glance at his father, but maintaining his quiet and reserved mien, he continued silent. Chingachgook had caught the look, and motioning with his hand, he bade him speak. The moment this permission was accorded, the countenance of Uncas changed from its grave composure to a gleam of intelligence and joy. Bounding forward like a deer, he sprang up the side of a little declivity, a few rods in advance, and stood, exultingly, over a spot of fresh earth, that looked as though it had been recently upturned by the passage of some heavy animal. The eyes of the whole party followed the unexpected movement, and read their success in the air of triumph that the youth assumed.

"'Tis the trail!" exclaimed the scout, advancing to the spot; "the lad is quick of sight and keen of wit for his years."

"'Tis extraordinary that he should have withheld his knowledge so long," muttered Duncan, at his elbow.

"It would have been more wonderful had he spoken without a bidding. No, no; your young white, who gathers his learning from books and can measure what he knows by the page, may conceit³ that his knowledge, like his legs,

¹ trail 行蹤; 腳跡. ² strait 缺乏; 爲難. ³ conceit 自以爲是; 自傲, 妄自尊大.

現在我們離斯卡倫斯 (Scaroons) 不遠，我們卻並未經過他們的行蹤！人的聰明原是薄弱的，也許我們不曾走進尋他們的行蹤所應走的路。』

旦肯喊道，『天保護我們，不令我們作這樣的錯事。我們不如退步，一面走一面用更尖利的眼，細心察看。我們遇着這樣的爲難，難道安伽斯無策可獻麼？』

這個少年摩希干人看看他的父親，但仍保留他的安靜及緘默態度，接連不開口。慶伽谷看見兒子看他一眼，動一動他的手，叫他說話。安伽斯一得了這樣的許可，他的嚴重安詳變作一陣過而不留的聰明及歡樂。他同一隻鹿一般，跳向前，跳上在前不過幾十碼的一條小斜徑的邊上，很得意的站在一塊新土上，好像是重大的動物新近才翻起來的。全隊人的眼睛都跟着這樣出其不意的舉動，一看那個少年的得意神色，就曉得他們找着行蹤了。

探子走到那個地點，喊道，『這是行蹤；他這樣年紀的孩子，虧他有這樣快的眼光，有這樣利的聰明。』

旦肯在他的身邊，喃喃的說道，『他久已曉得了，卻不肯說出，這是太奇怪了。』

探子說道，『假使他未奉命就先說出，那才是更奇怪呢。不奇，不奇；你們的少年白人，從書本裏頭採取知識，可以用多少頁書以算有多少知識，可以妄自尊大，說他的

outruns that of his father; but where experience is the master, the scholar is made to know the value of years, and respects them accordingly."

"See!" said Uncas, pointing north and south, at the evident marks of the broad trail on either side of him, "the dark-hair has gone toward the frost."

"Hound never ran on a more beautiful scent," responded the scout, dashing forward, at once, on the indicated route; "we are favored, greatly favored, and can follow with high noses. Ay, here are both your waddling beasts; this Huron travels like a white general. The fellow is stricken with a judgment, and is mad! Look sharp for wheels, Sagamore," he continued, looking back, and laughing in his newly awakened satisfaction; "we shall soon have the fool journeying in a coach, and that with three of the best pair of eyes on the borders in his rear."

The spirits of the scout, and the astonishing success of the chase, in which a circuitous distance of more than forty miles had been passed, did not fail to impart a portion of hope to the whole party. Their advance was rapid; and made with as much confidence as a traveller would proceed along a wide highway. If a rock, or a rivulet, or a bit of earth harder than common, severed the links of the clew they followed, the true eye of the scout recovered them at a distance, and seldom rendered the delay of a single moment necessary. Their progress was much facilitated by the certainty that Magua had found it necessary to journey through the valleys, a circumstance which rendered the general direction of the route sure. Nor had the Huron entirely neglected the arts uniformly practised by the natives when retiring in front of an enemy. False trails and sudden turnings were frequent, wherever a brook

知識，如同他的兩腳勝過他的父親；但是若以閱歷爲主，學者要曉得年紀的價值，所以要尊重有年紀的人。』

安伽斯向南北兩方指，指在他兩旁的寬廣行蹤的顯然標記，說道，『看呀！黑髮人向樹林去了。』

探子立刻衝上前，到了所指示的路徑上，答道，『獵狗也找不出更好的蹤跡，我們僥倖，大僥倖，我們能夠抬起頭來跟行蹤走。呀，這裏是你們的兩個搖搖擺擺走得慢的動物；這個胡倫人旅行，同一個白人的軍長一樣。這個人受了裁判了，他是瘋了！』他回頭看，他得了新鮮醒悟的滿意，對酋長說道，『你留心看車輪，我們不久會看見這個傻子坐大車走路，用三個眼光最好的看着後面的邊界。』

探子的高興，追趕所得的令人詫異的成功，又繞路走過四十多哩，不能不給這羣人以一部分的希望。他們進行甚快；他們很果於自信的進行，如同一個旅行人在大路上前進一樣。若有一塊山石，一條溪流，或一塊比尋常更堅硬的土，打斷他們所跟隨的行蹤，探子的準確的眼就在相離不遠地方再找着，很少要停頓耽擱一會兒的工夫。他們曉得馬伽見得必要走出山谷；這樣的情形就使他們所走的路的大概方向有了定準的，他們的進步就變作容易得多。胡倫人並未整個的忽視土人在仇敵前面退走時所一律習用的詭計。他們往往利用假行蹤及忽然轉灣，遇着

or the formation of the ground rendered them feasible; but his pursuers were rarely deceived, and never failed to detect their error, before they had lost either time or distance on the deceptive track.

By the middle of the afternoon they had passed the Scaroons and were following the route of the declining sun. After descending an eminence to a low bottom, through which a swift stream glided, they suddenly came to a place where the party of Le Renard had made a halt. Extinguished brands were lying around a spring, the offals of a deer were scattered about the place, and the trees bore evident marks of having been browsed by the horses. At a little distance, Heyward discovered, and contemplated with tender emotion, the small bower under which he was fain to believe that Cora and Alice had reposed. But while the earth was trodden, and the footsteps of both men and beasts were so plainly visible around the place, the trail appeared to have suddenly ended.

It was easy to follow the tracks of the Narragansetts, but they seemed only to have wandered without guides, or any other object than the pursuit of food. At length Uncas, who, with his father had endeavored to trace the route of the horses, came upon a sign of their presence that was quite recent. Before following the clew, he communicated his success to his companions; and while the latter were consulting on the circumstance, the youth reappeared, leading the two fillies, with their saddles broken, and the housings soiled, as though they had been permitted to run at will for several days.

"What should this prove?" said Duncan, turning pale, and glancing his eyes around him, as if he feared the brush and leaves were about to give up some horrid secret.

一條山溪或地勢可以用得着這樣的詭計時，他們是要利用的；但是追趕的人很少得受欺，絕不會不看出他們自己的錯誤，誤走不多時，或誤走不遠，就曉得了。

到了午後三四點鐘，他們過了斯卡倫斯，向西跟着日落的方向走。他們從一個高處走到底下，那裏有一條急流的溪水流過，他們忽然到了狡狐的徒衆停頓地方，（法蘭西人稱馬伽爲 Le Renard Subtile 即狡狐——譯者註。）在一個山泉左右有許多滅了的燒過的木片，還有一頭鹿的許多碎肉，肝腸等等，摔在那裏，樹木還有顯明的形迹，是曾被馬匹嚼過的。哈華特在不遠地方找着有樹蔭的地方，他願意相信是柯爾拉（Cora）及阿立斯（Alice 這是孟洛的兩個女兒的名字——譯者註。）休息地方，他在那裏用溫柔的情緒冥想。地上誠然是有人跳過的，四面誠然有顯而可見人與獸的足跡，行踪卻忽然中止了。

追蹤這些那拉甘塞（Narragansetts 種族名，又是該種人所住的海灣名，又是一種善於負重的馬名——譯者註。）原是易事，他們好像任意亂走，並無引路的人，不然，只志在求食，並無其他目的。後來安伽斯父子努力找那幾匹馬的行蹤，還是安伽斯找着他們很新近的蹤跡。他先把他所找着的蹤跡告訴他的同伴，才去追蹤；他的同伴們正在討論這個環境的時候，安伽斯又回來，領着兩匹鞍轡已破，馬被已汙的小牝馬，好像是得以任意遊行了好幾天的。

旦肯變作臉無人色，四圍看看，好像小樹林及樹葉要揭露可怕的祕密一般，他說道，『這該證明什麼。』

"That our march is come to a quick end, and that we are in an enemy's country," returned the scout. "Had the knave been pressed, and the gentle ones wanted horses to keep up with the party, he might have taken their scalps; but without an enemy at his heels, and with such rugged beasts as these, he would not hurt a hair of their heads. I know your thoughts, and shame be it to our color that you have a reason for them; but he who thinks that even a Mingo would ill-treat a woman unless it be to tomahawk her, knows nothing of Indian natur', or the laws of the woods. No, no; I have heard that the French Indians had come into these hills to hunt the moose, and we are getting within scent of their camp. Why should they not? The morning and evening guns of Ty may be heard any day among these mountains; for the Frenchers are running a new line atween the provinces of the king and the Canadas. It is true that the horses are here, but the Hurons are gone; let us, then, hunt for the path by which they departed."

Hawkeye and the Mohicans now applied themselves to their task in good earnest.¹ A circle of a few hundred feet in circumference was drawn, and each of the party took a segment for his portion. The examination, however, resulted in no discovery. The impressions of footsteps were numerous, but they all appeared like those of men who had wandered about the spot, without any design to quit it. Again the scout and his companions made the circuit of the halting place, each slowly following the other, until they assembled in the centre once more, no wiser than when they started.

¹in good earnest 極認真.

探子回答道，『這是證明我們到了一個仇敵的國，我們的進行完得很快。假使我們曾緊緊追趕那個惡棍，那兩個女子無馬，追不上那羣土人，他很許可以取了她們的頭頂皮；但是並無仇人尾追他，他們的馬又是性子烈的，他是不會傷害她們頭上一條頭髮的。我曉得你的思想，你既有理由發生那種思想，是我們白人應該慚愧的；但凡一個人會想到一個明哥人（Mingo 北美一種土人——譯者註。）會虐待一個女人，除非是用戰斧打死她，就是不曉得土人的性情，不然就是不曉得樹林的法律。（這是勸旦肯不要害怕土人會強奸那兩個女子——譯者註。）不會的，不會的；我曾聽說歸附法蘭西的土人曾到這些山上打大鹿，我們離他們的駐紮地很近了。他們為什麼不該在那裏？在這裏的山上無論那一天都可以聽見泰（地名——譯者註。）地方的早炮及晚炮；因為法蘭西人正在我們君主的幾省及加拿大之間劃一條新線。馬匹誠然在這裏，但是胡倫人已經走了；我們要找尋他們離開此地所走的路。』

鷹眼同這個摩希干人極認真辦這件事。於是劃一個周圍幾百尺的圓圈，各人察看一部分。結果還是找尋不出。腳迹有許多，好像都在那裏走來走去，並無有離開此地的用意。探子與他的同伴們循環察看停留的地方，一個挨一個慢慢的看，後來又聚在中央，如同初時那樣毫無所得。

"Such cunning is not without its deviltry,"¹ exclaimed Hawkeye, when he met the disappointed looks of his assistants.

"We must get down to it, Sagamore, beginning at the spring, and going over the ground by inches. The Huron shall never brag in his tribe that he has a foot which leaves no print."

Setting the example himself,² the scout engaged in the scrutiny with renewed zeal. Not a leaf was left unturned.³ The sticks were removed, and the stones lifted; for Indian cunning was known frequently to adopt these objects as covers, laboring with the utmost patience and industry, to conceal each footstep as they proceeded. Still no discovery was made. At length Uncas, whose activity had enabled him to achieve his portion of the task the soonest, raked the earth across the turbid little rill which ran from the spring, and diverted its course into another channel. So soon as its narrow bed below the dam was dry, he stooped over it with keen and curious eyes. A cry of exultation immediately announced the success of the young warrior. The whole party crowded to the spot where Uncas pointed out the impression of a moccasin in the moist alluvion.

"The lad will be an honor to his people," said Hawkeye, regarding the trail with as much admiration as a naturalist would expend on the tusk of a mammoth or the rib of a mastodon; "ay, and a thorn in the sides of the Hurons. Yet that is not the footstep of an Indian! the weight is too much on the heel, and the toes are squared, as though one

¹ deviltry 邪術; 毒計. ² Setting the example himself 以身作則.
³ not a leaf was left unturned 無論什麼都看到了(這裏可以用字面的意思說塊塊樹葉都翻過來看).

當鷹眼看見他的幫手們的失望神色，喊道，『這樣的狡詐，並非是無毒計的。』

『酋長，我們必得打探到底，在山泉那裏起，逐寸逐寸的細看。我們絕不讓那個胡倫人在他的部落裏頭誇口，說他雖然有腳，卻是不留腳迹的。』

探子以身作則，重振熱心，詳細察看。無論什麼都看到了，地上的樹葉，無一片不翻過來看過。樹枝都挪開了；凡是石頭都舉起看過；因為他們曉得印度人狡詐，常用樹枝及石頭作遮蓋，極其耐煩耐勞的當他們前進時，一步一步的遮蓋他們的腳迹。雖然這樣細心找尋，還是找不出什麼來。後來還是安伽斯的活動，使他最早能夠建立他那一部分的功勞，他把一條從山泉出來的細流的土掘起來，堆在一處塞住了，使其另流入一條水路。一等到在他所造的隄下的水道乾了，他就低頭用尖利的及好察的眼細看。他很得意的喊了一聲，立刻就宣布這個少年戰士的功績。全羣的人都聚在這裏看安伽斯所指出在溼泥上的鹿皮鞋的印象。

鷹眼很稱讚這個蹤跡，如同一個自然科學家稱讚荒古時代巨象的牙或蝦蟆龍的一條肋骨；（這種文章當以作者爲獨步——譯者註。）他說道，『這個孩子，將來是他本部族的一個出色人物，又是胡倫人身上的一條刺。可惜這不是一個土人的腳迹！脚跟用力太重，是方頭鞋的腳迹，

of the French dancers had been in, pigeon-winging¹ his tribe! Run back, Uncas, and bring me the size of the singer's foot. You will find a beautiful print of it just opposite yon rock, agin the hillside."

While the youth was engaged in this commission, the scout and Chingachgook were attentively considering the impressions. The measurements agreed, and the former unhesitatingly pronounced that the footstep was that of David, who had once more been made to exchange his shoes for moccasins.

"I can now read the whole of it, as plainly as if I had seen the arts of *Le Subtil*," he added; "the singer being a man whose gifts lay chiefly in his throat and feet, was made to go first, and the others have trod in his steps, imitating their formation."

"But," cried Duncan, "I see no signs of—"

"The gentle ones," interrupted the scout; "the varlet has found a way to carry them until he supposed he had thrown any followers off the scent. My life on it, we see their pretty little feet again, before many rods go by."

The whole party now proceeded, following the course of the rill, keeping anxious eyes on the regular impressions. The water soon flowed into its bed again, but watching the ground on either side, the foresters pursued their way content with knowing that the trail lay beneath. More than half a mile was passed, before the rill rippled close around the base of an extensive and dry rock. Here they paused to make sure that the Hurons had not quitted the water.

¹pigeon-winging 一種跳舞名。

好像有一個法蘭西跳舞人曾進來，拉住他的部落跳舞！安伽斯，你跑回頭把唱歌人的腳的尺寸給我。山邊的石頭對過有他的很好的足跡。』

當這個少年走去辦這件事的時候，探子與慶伽谷留心考慮那些足跡。尺寸是相符的，探子並不遲疑就宣布是大衛的足跡，有人再叫他換了鹿皮鞋，不穿他的鞋子。

探子說道，『我現在能夠很清楚的解說這件事，如同我親眼看見狡狐使手段一樣；唱歌人的本事全在他的喉嚨與他的兩腳，他們叫他先走，其餘的人在他的足跡上走，學他的腳步。』

旦肯喊道，『但是我看不見足跡……。』

探子打叉說道，『那個奴才想出一個法子抬小姐們過去，等到他猜任何尾隨的人已經失了蹤跡，才不抬。我敢說，我們向前再走幾十碼，又會看見她們的小腳。』

現在全隊的人向前走，跟着細流的方向走，很留心看整齊的足跡。那條水不久又流入原來的漕，這些獵人留心兩邊看，往前走，曉得所尋的行蹤在水下。他們走過半哩多路，才看見那條細流繞着一塊大而乾的石頭底下流。他們停在這裏，要曉得胡倫人實在並未離開這條水。