

fary to restrain my animal passions on his design.

The following evening was fixed upon for this spiritual conference. When every thing had been properly prepared, the king came to me and led me to a capacious tent, the covering of which was drawn up, so as to render what was transacting within visible to those who stood without. We found the tent surrounded by a great number of the Indians, but we readily gained admission, and seated ourselves on skins laid on the ground for that purpose.

In the centre I observed that there was a place of an oblong shape, which was composed of stakes stuck in the ground with intervals between, so as to form a kind of chest or coffin, large enough to contain the body of a man. These were of a middle size, and placed at such a distance from each other, that whatever lay within them was readily to be discerned. The tent was perfectly illuminated by a great number of torches made of splinters cut from the pine or birch tree, which the Indians held in their hands.

In a few minutes the priest entered, when an amazing large elk's skin being spread on the ground, just at my feet, he laid himself down upon it, after having stripped himself of every garment except that which he wore close about his middle. Being now prostrate on his back, he first laid hold of one side of the skin and folded it over him, and then the other, leaving only his head uncovered. This was no sooner done, than two of the young men who stood by, took about forty yards of strong cord, made also of an elk's hide, and rolled it round his body, so that he was completely swathed within the skin. Being thus bound up like an Egyptian Mummy, one took him by the heels, and the other by the head, and lifted him over the piles into the inclosure. I could now also observe him as plain as I had hitherto done, and I took care not to turn my eyes a moment from the object before me, that I might the more readily detect the artifice, for such I doubted not it would turn out to be.

The priest had not lain in this situation more than a few seconds, when he began to mutter. This he continued to do for some time, and then by degrees grew louder and louder, till at length he spoke articulately; however, what he uttered was in such a mixed jargon of the Chippeway, Ottawa, and Killisnoe languages, that I could understand but very little of it. Having continued in this tone for a considerable while, he at last excited his voice to its utmost pitch, sometimes raving and sometimes praying, till

he had worked himself into such an agitation, that he foamed at his mouth.

After having remained near three quarters of an hour in the place, and continued his vociferation with unabated vigour, he seemed to be quite exhausted, and remained speechless; but in an instant he sprung upon his feet, notwithstanding at the time he was put in, it appeared impossible for him to move either his legs or arms, and shaking off his covering, as quick as if the bands with which it had been bound were burned asunder, he began to address those who stood around him in a firm and audible voice. "My brothers," said he, "the Great Spirit has deigned to hold a Talk with his servant at my request. He has not, indeed, told me when the persons we expect will be here, but to-morrow, soon after the sun has reached his highest point in the heavens, a canoe will arrive, and the people in that will inform us when the traders will come." Having said this, he stepped out of the inclosure, and after he had put on his robes, dismissed the assembly. I own I was greatly astonished at what I had seen, but as I observed that every eye in the company was fixed on me with a view to discover my sentiments, I carefully concealed every emotion.

The next day the sun shone bright, and long before noon all the Indians were gathered together on the eminence that overlooked the lake. The old king came to me, and asked me if I had so much confidence in what the priest had foretold, as to join his people on the hill and wait for the completion of it? I told him I that was at a loss what opinion to form of the prediction, but that I would readily attend him. On this we walked together to the place where the others were assembled. Every eye was again fixed by turns on me and on the lake; when just as the sun had reached his zenith, agreeable to what the priest had foretold, a canoe came round a point of land about a league distant. The Indians no sooner beheld it, than they sent up an universal shout, and by their looks seemed to triumph in the interest their priest thus evidently had with the Great Spirit.

In less than an hour the canoe reached the shore: when I attended the king and chiefs to receive those who were on board. As soon as the men were landed, we walked all together to the king's tent, where, according to their invariable custom, we began to smoke; and this we did, notwithstanding our impatience to know the tidings they brought, without asking any questions; for the Indians are the most deliberate people in the world.— However, after some trivial conversation,

the king enquired of them whether they had seen any thing of the traders? The men replied, that they had parted from them a few days before, and that they proposed being here the second day near the point. They accordingly arrived at that time greatly to our satisfaction, but more particularly so to that of the Indians, who found by this event the importance both of their priest and of their nation greatly augmented in the sight of a stranger.

This story I acknowledge appears to carry with it marks of great credulity in the relator. But no one is less inclined with that weakness than myself. The circumstances of it I own are of a very extraordinary nature; however, as I can vouch for their being free from either exaggeration or misrepresentation, being myself a cool and dispassionate observer of them all, I thought it necessary to give them to the public; and this I do without wishing to mislead the judgment of my readers, or to make any superstitious impressions on their minds, but leaving them to draw from it what conclusions they please.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 10.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated October 4.

"CAPTAIN Fitzpatrick arrived here yesterday from Amsterdam, and had on board 80,000 dollars in specie—40,000 to a house in this city, the remainder for a merchant in New-York. The presumption is, that the whole is to be invested in the debt of the United States."

Every 100 dollars continental debt with three years interest due thereon, will produce an interest of five and an half per cent. Is it not astonishing that prudent and intelligent people will still such debt at 12/6 in the pound, when there is a moral certainty of the interest being paid regularly every quarter year? The debt of England, bearing such an interest, is worth at least 28s. in the pound.

The debt of England is at least 300,000,000 pounds sterling.—The debt of the United States, including state debts, not 20,000,000 pounds sterling.

PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 30.

Extract of a letter from Port-au-Prince, to a person in this city, dated September 28.

"This, in fact, is the land of conflict. They are divided against each other."