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## HISTORY.

### CARVER'S TRAVELS.

(Continued.)

THIS seeming indifference, however, does not proceed from a entire suppression of the natural affections; for notwithstanding they are esteemed savages, I never saw among any other people greater proofs of parental or filial tenderness; and although they meet their wives after a long absence with the stoical indifference just mentioned, they are not in general void of conjugal affection.

Another peculiarity is observable in their manner of paying their visits. If an Indian goes to visit a particular person in a family, he mentions to whom his visit is intended, and the rest of the company immediately retiring to the other end of the hut or tent, are careful not to interrupt them during the whole of the conversation: The same method is pursued if a man goes to pay his respects to one of the other sex; but then he must take care not to let love be the subject of his discourse whilst the day-light remains.

The Indians discover an amazing sagacity, and acquire with the greatest readiness any thing that depends upon the attention of the mind. By experience and acute observation, they attain many perfections to which Europeans are strangers. For instance, they will cross a forest or a plain which is two hundred miles in breadth, and reach with great exactness the point at which they intend to arrive, keeping during the whole of that space in a direct line, without any material deviations; and this they will do with the same ease, whether the weather be fair or cloudy.

With equal acuteness they will point to that part of the heavens the sun is in, though it be intercepted by clouds or fogs. Besides this, they are able to pursue with incredible facility the traces of man or beast, either on leaves or grass; and on this account it is with great difficulty a flying enemy escapes discovery.

They are indebted for these talents not only to nature, but to an extraordinary command of the intellectual faculties, which can only be acquired by an unremitting attention, and by long experience.

They are in general very happy in a retentive memory; they can recapitulate every particular that has been treated of in council, and remember the exact time when these were held. Their belts of wampum preserve the substance of the treaties they have concluded with the neighbouring tribes for ages back, to which they will appeal, and refer with as much perspicuity and readiness as Europeans can to their written records.

Every nation pays great respect to old age. The advice of a father will seldom meet with an extraordinary attention from the young Indians, probably they receive it only with a bare assent; but they will tremble before a grandfather, and submit to his injunctions with the utmost alacrity. The words of the ancient part of the community are esteemed by the young as oracles. If they take during their hunting parties any game that is reckoned by them uncommonly delicious, it is immediately presented to the oldest of their relations.

They never suffer themselves to be overburdened with care, but live in a state of perfect tranquillity and contentment. Being naturally indolent, if provision just sufficient for their subsistence can be procured with little trouble, and near at hand, they will not go far, nor take any extraordinary pains for it, though by so doing they might obtain greater plenty, and of a more estimable kind.

Having much leisure time, they indulge this indolence to which they are so prone, by eating, drinking, or sleeping, and rambling about in their towns or camps. But when necessity obliges them to take the field, either to oppose an enemy, or to procure themselves food, they are alert and indefatigable. Many instances of their activity on these occasions will be given when I treat of their wars.

The infatuating spirit of gaming is not

confined to Europe; the Indians also feel the bewitching impulse, and often lose their arms, their apparel, and every thing they are possessed of. In this case, however, they do not follow the example of more refined gamblers, for they neither murmur nor repine; not a fretful word escapes them, but they bear the frowns of fortune with a philosophic composure.

The greatest blemish in their character is that savage disposition which impels them to treat their enemies with a severity every other nation shudders at. But if they are thus barbarous to those with whom they are at war, they are friendly, hospitable and humane, to those with whom they are at peace. It may with truth be said of them, that they are the worst enemies, and the best friends of any people in the whole world.

The Indians in general are strangers to the passions of jealousy, and brand a man with folly that is distrustful of his wife. Among some bands the very idea is not known, as the most abandoned of the young men very rarely attempt the virtue of married women, nor do these put themselves in the way of solicitation. Yet the Indian women are of an amorous temperature in general, and before they are married are not the less esteemed for the indulgence of their passions.

Whilst I was among the Naudowessies I observed that they paid uncommon respect to one of their women, and found on enquiry that she was entitled to it on account of a transaction that in Europe would have rendered her infamous.

They told me that when she was a young woman, for at the time I saw her she was far advanced in life, she had given what they had termed a nice feast. According to an ancient, but almost obsolete custom, (which, as Hamlet says, would have been more honoured in the breach than the observance) she invited forty of the principal warriors to her tent, where having feasted them with rice and venison, she by turns regaled each of them with a private desert, behind a screen,