

guage to be able to comprehend all the horror of his destiny, which was greatly aggravated by his reflections on the distress he had brought upon his master and mistress, in the loss of their child ; whose fate he lamented, he said, more than his own.

The Indian women are extremely fond of their children, and take the utmost care of them while they are young. She who had adopted little Edward, shewed an affection for him equal to what she had felt for her own son, who died a few days before she accompanied her friends in this expedition.

These Indians belonged to a tribe called Hurons, who were settled about three leagues from Montreal.—They are Christians, and have a missionary who always resides amongst them, and for whom they have the highest respect and reverence. During their journey to their own village, which was very tedious, and sometimes performed in canoes sometimes by land, the Huron woman was very attentive to the preservation of the child, feeding it plentifully with a preparation of maize, which they call sagamity.—They boil it in the ear while it is yet tender, afterwards roast it a little, then separate it from the ear, and leave it to dry in the sun : in this state it will keep a long time. They commonly make their provision of it for long journeys, and complete the dressing of it, when they want it, by boiling it in water, and it has then an excellent flavour.

William, who often travelled in the same canoe with this Huron woman and his young master, saw with pleasure that the child began to relish this food ; but was pierced to the heart, he said, when he would innocently ask, when he should see his mamma ? and when she would come to him ?

At length they reached their village : the Huron woman carried Edward to her cabin. The family, who had lost a relation in this expedition, willingly received William in his place. Some days afterwards a feast was made, during the course of which, he received, in a solemn manner, the name of him whom he had replaced ; and from thenceforth, not only succeeded to all his rights, but likewise became liable to all his obligation.

The missionary, who was of the order of the Jesuits, finding William was bred a Protestant, immediately set about converting him to the Catholic Faith, as he termed it. William listened to his documents with great attention, and shewed a docility which pleased the father greatly ; who expressed a friendship for him, that gave him hopes, he might be able one day, by

his means, to recover his liberty, and restore Edward again to his parents. But it was necessary to observe great caution in this design ; for if the Indians had received the least intimation of it, they would have put him to death, nor could the father have protected him ; who, when he was informed by him, that Edward was the son of an English officer of family and fortune, expressed some compassion for his fate, and the grief his parents must feel for his loss ; but his zeal, flattered with the expectation of making him a good Catholic, as he grew up, and his fear of endangering the success of his mission, if he gave any offence to the Indians by endeavouring to effect his deliverance, prevented him from forming any scheme in his favour.

William had been now four months in the Huron village, when he was obliged to join a hunting party composed of several young Indians, to whom, by the right of adoption he was now related. He told us, that when he went to take leave of little Edward, his emotions, which he considered as a sad presage that he should see him no more, were so violent, as exposed him to the ridicule of his companions, and obliged him to affect a more than ordinary degree of alacrity afterwards, in order to wear off the unfavourable impression.

His apprehensions were realized. Being obliged to go a great distance from their own village, in quest of game, they were encountered by a more numerous party of the Algonquins, a tribe of Indians with whom the Hurons were always at enmity ; a battle ensued ; several of the Hurons were killed, and two of the Algonquins ; William was wounded and taken prisoner. He had the good fortune again to be adopted ; the mother of an Algonquin, who was killed, consented to replace her son by this captive, whose figure pleased her.

His condition here was much worse than it had been with the Hurons ; he was not only separated from the dear child, who was his only comfort, and whose deliverance he always hoped to accomplish, but he was now adopted into an idolatrous nation, whose savage customs and manners, filled him with horror and dismay.

Here my dear madam, we must leave the unfortunate William, and return to our dear little boy, who in a few weeks after his departure lost his affectionate nurse, who was seized with a fever, which proved mortal.

When the missionary attended her to receive her confession, and prepare her for death, she surprised him with a declaration,