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Indian Notions of Justice.

ALTHOUGH cold-blooded, deliberate murder is hardly ever committed by the Indians, yet manslaughter, perpetrated either in drunken quarrels, or from the influence of sudden and violent passion, is by no means uncommon. In most cases the offender is delivered over to the family of the deceased, that they may deal with him according to their pleasure; and revenge being, as was before stated, a prominent trait in the Indian character, it is rarely that the guilty man escapes with life.

But notwithstanding this unchristian-like thirst for revenge, homicide and even murders are sometimes atoned for by a sum of money, or the equivalent, which is paid in a sort of shells called *wampum*,* an article that forms the standard by which the price of all commodities is measured.

Sometimes too, the murderer is even adopted by the parents of him whom he destroyed, and in every respect takes his place.

An instance of this kind occurred some years ago at an Indian village not far distant from Montreal, in Upper Canada.

Two young men of the same tribe, who were remarkable, the one for his great height, and the other for his strength and activity, met together one day on the plain with a number of their companions. After a good deal of boasting on both sides, they began to abuse each other, and finally to quarrel with considerable violence of voice and gesture.

The contest which had begun in sport, had the most fatal consequences; the standers-by encouraged, some

* See a note at the end of this tale.