

addition to that of fasting, constituted a useful training for future life. They were required to bathe at daybreak every morning for about a month in the spring, whilst the water was cold. This was done with a view to render them hardy, robust, and capable of standing all sorts of weather. Unhappily the ancient discipline by which the Indian youths were thus trained to hardihood and self-denial, is no longer practised. It is a matter of regret that the young Indians of the present day have almost entirely lost the virtues of sobriety and self-respect practised by their predecessors. Self-indulgence of the grossest kind has taken the place of self-denial. Too often they frequent the low grog-shop, where they lose all sense of shame, and are rendered mean and beggarly, as well as useless members of society. It is scarcely necessary to remark that there were good speakers among the Indians formerly; but I have too much reason to believe, that there are no such speakers to be found among them at the present day. In my opinion it was chiefly owing to their deep contemplation in their silent retreats in the days of youth, that the old Indian orators acquired the habit of carefully arranging their thoughts; when, instead of the shoutings of drunken companions, they listened to the warbling of birds, whilst the grandeur and the beauties of the forest, the majestic clouds, which appear like mountains of granite floating in the air, the golden tints of a summer evening sky, and all the changes of nature, which then possessed a mysterious significance, combined to furnish ample matter for reflection to the contemplating youth.

Having made these remarks on the youthful training of the Indians, I proceed to speak about their warlike customs, and the regulations by which they were governed in their military expeditions. In the first place it was customary for the warrior who was to be the leader to give a banquet, about six months before, at his lodge, to which those who were to form the expedition were invited. On this occasion they went through the preliminary ceremonies, such as singing songs, inviting the crows to follow and feast upon the bodies of their enemies, walking or dancing around the fire place carrying the head of some animal on their shoulder, and impregnating their food with some sort of powder. Whether this was prepared from root, mineral, or animal substance, I cannot say; but, at any rate, after the food was impregnated with it, by the principal warrior, with strange invocations, great care was taken to prevent women and dogs from tasting it, as it was said to be ruinous to their health. After this feast all remained quiet,