

fallen into the hands of the merciless wretches ! who after making two or three unsuccessful attempts to force my doors, departed, having, as I then supposed, either murdered, or, what was almost as much to be dreaded, carried off my poor child a captive !

Early the morning ensuing confirmed my fears, as to the melancholy fact of her having been carried off by them, as her lifeless body, or any appearance of her having been murdered, could not be discovered ; and as soon as I could convey information of my loss to my neighbour, (who lived to the distance of about one mile,) he with myself, and accompanied by my brother-in-law, started on horseback in pursuit, with the distant hope of being able to overtake the savages previous to their crossing the Lake ; but in this we were disappointed, for on reaching the Lake the next day we were informed by a friendly Indian that he had noticed them crossing over to the Canada side two or three hours previous to our arrival ; and, in confirmation that they were the same party which we were in pursuit of, he had particularly noticed that among other prisoners, there was a young female, answering the description given of my daughter !—As we at that time possessed not the means to cross the Lake to pursue them further, on receiving the information of their having actually crossed, we gave up the pursuit, and I returned home to my disconsolate wife, and who could not be made to believe otherwise than that the life of her poor child had not only been spared, to experience the most cruel tortures that savage barbarity could invent, or inflict !—and who could only be consoled with the promise, that, as soon as possible, I would pursue the savage ruffians into Canada, and if so fortunate as to find our child alive, I would spare no pains to effect her redemption at any price ; and for this purpose, the week following I left home, and succeeded in reaching Canada, to learn that the Indians who composed the expedition were chiefly those of the St. Francis tribe, as they were then denominated, and who dwelt at some distance from where I then was, to the north ; and thither with some difficulty, I repaired, where although I met with some who confessed that they were attached to the expedition, yet from them could obtain no other information of the fate of my daughter, than that they had (by the intercession of their chief,) concluded to spare her life, and as he had been instrumental in saving her