

priesthood. They had a temple dedicated to the great spirit, in which they preserved the eternal fire. No doubt these tokens of their religion were ever obscured and perverted by tradition—but this is rather the misfortune than the crime of the Indians. This remark is applicable to all the aborigines of America. Their civil polity partook of the refinement of a people apparently in some degree learned and scientific. They had kings or chiefs—a kind of subordinate nobility—and the usual distinctions created by rank were well understood and preserved among them. They were just, generous and humane, and never failed to extend relief to the objects of distress and misery. They were well acquainted with the properties of medicinal plants, and the cures they performed, particularly among the French, were almost incredible. They were remarkable for not deeming it glorious to destroy the human species, and for this reason, seldom waged any other than defensive war.—Pages 53—4.

In short, the history of the European wars against the Indians, and particularly the Spanish, for more than two centuries, afford nothing but a series of complicated crimes, the black catalogue of which will continue to excite in every breast, the mingled emotions of pity and indignation. They made war on defenceless nations without provocation—spilt oceans of blood and involved millions of their fellow creatures in misery.—They trampled on all those laws deemed sacred by the civilized world, and their misdeeds find no other excuse than what is derived from the gratification of their avarice.—Page 58.

They not only enslaved the prisoners taken in battle, but likewise those peaceable and effeminate people who submitted