

situation; and he has generally the good fortune to persuade those with whom he is treating, that it is their interest to put an end to hostilities, tho' they have been the conquerors. It is besides of the last consequence to himself, to employ all his eloquence and address, for should his proposals happen not to be relished, he must keep well on his guard, a blow with a hatchet being sometimes the only answer given on such occasions. He is not out of danger even if he escapes the first surprize, but must lay his account with being pursued and burnt, if taken, provided such an act of violence can be justified by any pretext, such as that of reprisals for a like proceeding. Thus it happened to some French amongst the Iroquois, to whom they had been sent on the part of the governor general; and the missionaries, who for some years resided among those Barbarians, altho' they were under the safeguard of the public faith, and in some measure agents for the colony, yet were every day in dread of being sacrificed to some ancient grudge, or becoming victims to the intrigues of the governors of New-York.

It is surprizing, in short, that nations who never make war from motives of interest, and who even carry their disinterestedness to such a height, that their warriors never load themselves with the spoils of the vanquished, and if they bring home any booty, abandon it to the first that pleases to take it; and lastly, who take up arms for glory only, or to revenge themselves on their enemies; it is, I say, quite astonishing to see them so well versed and practised in the greatest refinements of policy, and even so as to keep ministers residing amongst their enemies at the public expence. They have one custom with respect to these agents, which at first sight appears sufficiently extravagant, tho' it may be reckoned