

found them mild and inoffensive, and uniformly experienced the most friendly treatment from them, although they would occasionally pilfer small articles. In their traffic, they were acute and intelligent, employing in all their bargains, a dexterity and foresight which seemed to belong to a more civilized race. They began by asking double and treble the value of their commodities, and lowering their demands in proportion to the wariness of the purchaser. The first offer they always rejected, so that after refusing the most extravagant prices which were first proposed by way of experiment, they would at last importune for a tenth part of the sum. In this respect they differ from almost all other Indians, who will generally exchange in a thoughtless moment the most valuable article they possess for any bauble which happens to please their fancy.

A modern traveller has declared that their good qualities are few, and their vices many. According to his account, they are industrious, patient and sober, but addicted to theft, lying, incontinence, gaming and cruelty. They are also complete hypocrites. Each community accuses the other of envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness. Even the inhabitants of the same village, while they feign an outward appearance of friendship, indulge in backbiting,—in this respect differing little from the people of more civilized countries. Their bravery seems doubtful; but what they lack in courage, they make up in effrontery. Fear alone prevents them from making open attempts at robbery, and what they practise in this way, amounts to no more than petty larceny.