

coercive ; they are rather revered as fathers, than dreaded as lords. The young attend the public councils for instruction ; here they learn the history of their nation ; here they are inflamed with the songs of those who celebrate the heroic deeds of their ancestors ; here the orators express their thoughts in a bold and figurative manner, stronger than the refined nations of Europe can bear, and with gestures equally violent, but often extremely natural and expressive : here the interests of the nation are debated on and resolved, they regulate whatever regards the internal peace and order of the state, and determine on future expeditions ; the bond of friendship unites the society ; every one hastens to execute the orders of the senate, and so unanimous are they in their conduct and in all their manners, that in the history of the tribe we may read the habits of the individual, and, reciprocally, in the life of the Indian we have the history of his nation.

7. *Mode of War, Cruelty.*] When a war is resolved on, the principal captain summons the youth of the town to which he belongs ; the war kettle is set on the fire ; the war song and dances commence : the hatchet is sent to all the villages of the nation, and to all its allies ; war songs and hideous howlings are heard day and night over their tract of the country ; the women add their cries to those of the men, lamenting the friends they have lost either in war or by a natural death, and demanding their places to be supplied by captives from the enemy. None are forced into the war ; those that have a mind to share in the expedition give small billets of wood to the war captain, they are then considered as enlisted, and it is death to recede. The warriors have their faces blackened with charcoal and dashed with streaks of vermilion. The nations of Indians in America are separated by vast desert frontiers, and embosomed in thick and gloomy forests, that must be passed before they meet with the nation whom they intend to attack ; these are sometimes wholly ignorant of any danger, the enemy having waited whole years to attack them by surprize, and it falls an easy prey to the unexpected fury of the invaders : but it more frequently happens that it has notice of the design, and prepares to take the same advantage of the least want of vigilance in those who mean to attack them. They light no fires to warm themselves, or dress their victuals, but subsist on the frugal pittance of a little meal mixed with water ; they lie close to the ground during the day, and march only in the night, and even then with the utmost precaution. When they discover an army of the enemy, they throw themselves flat on their faces among the withered leaves, from which they are hardly discernible, their bodies being painted of a colour to resemble them. They generally let a part pass unmolested, and then rising a little, and setting up a most tremendous shout, which they call the war-hoop, they pour a storm of musket bullets upon the enemy. The party attacked return the same cry, and every man shelters himself behind a tree, and fires on the adverse party, the moment they rise from the ground to give the second volley : after fighting for some time in this manner, they leave their covert, and rush upon each other with small axes or tomahawks ; the contest is soon decided, and the conquerors satiate their savage fury with the most horrid insults and barbarities on the dead bodies of their