

any instances of captivity recorded, do women and children appear to have been subject to torture at the hands of their captors.

The customs and character of the American aborigine turned, mainly, however, upon war. A struggle between two rival tribes or nations could be brought on by the most trivial cause, or by almost any ambitious or relentless individual. When determined upon, it became the source of almost uncontrollable joy, of wild dances, of eloquent harangues, of multitudinous prayers and sacrifices, of feasts and endless bravado and boasting. Then followed a period of absolute silence and secret preparation, departure in the night-time and a long, patient waiting by squaws and old braves and young boys, for the return. Perhaps the expedition never came back, but if it did so, with scalps and prisoners, the welcoming din of shouts and shrieks and tom-toms presented a perfect pandemonium of sound. Then followed the frightful torture of the captives, controlled somewhat by degree or rank, but always borne with a stoical endurance and pride. Such were the savages whom Champlain encountered and the French fought during over a hundred years of intermittent warfare.

Such, also, were the savages who, in modified or varied characteristics, extended from Lake Superior through the far west and north to the Pacific Ocean and about whom much less is known. They were great hunters and in time became most expert horsemen. The Dacotahs, or Sioux, were a nation of allies not unlike the Iroquois in many respects, and covering the southern region of Manitoba and Assiniboia. With them and around them were the Crees and Assiniboines, while to the north were the Chippewayans and around Hudson's Bay and the northern lakes were scattered the Chippewas. With the exception of the Sioux these tribes were not apparently as war-like as those in the more central part of the continent and, when settlement came, they showed a much more docile