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i. pp. 490-492

Dancing is another case in point. With us it is a mere amusement. Among savages it is an important, and, in some cases, religious ceremony. 'If,' says Robertson,¹ 'any inter-
 ' course be necessary between two American tribes, the ambas-
 ' sadors of the one approach in a solemn dance, and present the
 ' calumet or emblem of peace; the sachems of the other receive
 ' it with the same ceremony. If war is denounced against an
 ' enemy, it is by a dance, expressive of the resentment which
 ' they feel, and of the vengeance which they meditate. If the
 ' wrath of their gods is to be appeased, or their beneficence to
 ' be celebrated, if they rejoice at the birth of a child, or mourn
 ' the death of a friend, they have dances appropriated to each
 ' of these situations, and suited to the different sentiments with
 ' which they are then animated. If a person is indisposed, a
 ' dance is prescribed as the most effectual means of restoring
 ' him to health: and if he himself cannot endure the fatigue of
 ' such an exercise, the physician or conjuror performs it in his
 ' name, as if the virtue of his activity could be transferred to
 ' his patient.'

But it is unnecessary to multiply illustrations. Every one who has read much on the subject will admit the truth of the statement. It explains the capricious treatment which so many white men have received from savage potentates; how they have been alternately petted and illtreated, at one time loaded with the best of everything, at another neglected or put to death.

The close resemblance existing in ideas, language, habits, and character between savages and children, though generally admitted, has usually been disposed of in a passing sentence, and regarded rather as a curious accident than as an important truth. Yet from several points of view it possesses a high interest. Better understood, it might have saved us many national misfortunes, from the loss of Captain Cook down to the Abyssinian war. It has also a direct bearing on the present discussion.

The opinion is rapidly gaining ground among naturalists, that the development of the individual is an epitome of that of

¹ Robertson's America, bk. iv. p. 133.