

of his salvation, when one of the Hurons taking advantage of this opportunity, struck off his head.

If those nations, Madam, make war like Barbarians, it must however be allowed that in treaties of peace, and generally in all negociations, they display such a dexterity, address and elevation of soul, as would do honour to the most civilized nations. They never trouble themselves about making conquests, or extending their dominions. Some nations know no manner of dominion or sovereignty; and those who have never been at a distance from their native country, and who look upon themselves as the lords and sovereigns of the soil, are not so jealous of their property as to find fault with newcomers who settle on it, provided they do not attempt to molest them. The points which are the only subjects of their treaties, are to make alliances against powerful enemies; to put an end to a war which may have become burthensome to both parties; or rather to treat of a suspension of hostilities, for I have already observed, that every war is everlasting among the Indians, when it happens between different nations. Thus a treaty of peace is very little to be depended on, whilst any of the parties are capable of molesting or giving uneasiness to the other.

During the whole time of the negotiation, and even before it commences, their chief care is, that they may not seem to make the first advances, or if they do, they use all their address to make their enemy believe that it does not proceed from fear or necessity; and this last is managed very artfully. A plenipotentiary abates nothing of his haughtiness, even when the affairs of his country are in the worst situation;