

silex: the knife now used is a later invention which the manufacturers of Birmingham or Sheffield were kind enough to supply their red brethren, for a consideration, in unlimited numbers, to be used on the scalps of their white brethren in America. The introduction of fire-arms quickly supplanted the bow and arrow, and the tomahawk was made of iron and steel. Before they became demoralized by contact with civilization, the Indians, before going to war, were in the habit of informing their enemies of the fact by sending some symbol to put them on their guard. When in 1622 Canonicus proposed to go to war with the Plymouth Colony, he sent his defiance in the shape of a bundle of arrows tied up in a skin of a rattlesnake. Later, it is to be feared, that the sending of a declaration of war was sometimes forgotten. Before starting, they always had a feast of dog's flesh, which they believed made them courageous, and a war-dance, at which the older warriors excited and stimulated the others to engage in the proposed enterprise by dancing in a sort of frenzy to the music of a drum, and by the recital of their former deeds in war. Everything being ready, the expedition started. When in friendly territory, they divided into small parties, for the convenience of hunting; but when they reached the enemy's frontier they went in close array and in silence. To conceal their numbers, sometimes they marched in single file, each one in the track of his predecessor. Every device that their ingenious minds could suggest was employed to outwit and surprise the enemy. They enticed them into ambuscades, or waylaid and scalped them while passing in fancied security.* If no straggling parties of the enemy were met with, they sought one of his principal villages, which they attacked under cover of the darkness; a general massacre ensued, and those who were so unfortunate as to be taken alive were carried back with them to die by lingering torments. It sometimes happened that captives were not thus treated, but were adopted into the tribe and made to supply the place of some dead warrior. Their fate was determined by a Council, and in any case, whether they

* A remarkable instance of Indian strategy was a trick played by the Catawbas on the Caugnawagos early in the last century. They crept near one of the hunting camps of the latter and lay in ambush, and in order to decoy the Caugnawagas out sent two or three Catawbas in the night past their camp with buffalo hoofs fixed on their feet. In the morning the Caugnawagas followed the track, fell into the snare, and many were killed.