

weed," when mixed in equal quantities with the dried bark of the red willow. Without some proportion of the willow bark the Indians rarely smoke, the tobacco alone being too pungent for their tastes, and being greatly improved and softened by the admixture.

Notwithstanding all had succeeded well, yet there was some good reason assigned why each had not done better, and brought in a larger quantity of game. The pigeon-shooters had spent the morning profitably; for, in addition to the birds which graced our meal, many more swung to and fro on the limb of a maple tree hard by; yet they spoke of birds being lost from the want of retrievers, and the difficulty of tracing the flight of a flock among the tall trees. The salmon-fishers had brought to gaff three fine salmon, but complained of losing several others (the largest of course), from the strength of the stream, and the numerous obstructions in its course, which had occasioned great loss of casting lines and flies, and tested the strength of their tackle very severely.

During the day, the Indians, who were not otherwise employed, had built a large wigwam, and, as evening closed, we seated ourselves within it, on a thick bed of the sweet-smelling branches of the silver fir. Tomah was busily engaged in dressing and stretching the skin of his otter; the rest of the Indians were in high glee, perfectly wild with exuberance of spirits, and we noticed and enjoyed their jokes and pranks with each other, some of which were rude enough, but all given and received with the utmost good humour. The grave and sententious character of the red man of America has been so often portrayed by celebrated writers, that the race is now looked upon as possessing the most unbending and inflexible rigidity of manner, and a real or apparent insensibility either to pleasure or to pain. It is very generally believed that they never express the least surprise or admiration, however great may be the occasion which should call those feelings forth, and, above all, that they never indulge in levity of speech or ac-

tion, or join in any of the lighter sports or amusements, conceiving such frivolous pursuits wholly beneath the staid and dignified attitude which should always be maintained by the free man of the forest, who has attained to manhood, and been admitted to a seat at the council fire of his tribe. So far as my own experience extends, and I have seen much of the Indians in this part of America, I can safely assert that such a character by no means applies to them, and that it differs as widely as possible from the true representation of their dispositions and habits. It is true that the red man, in presence of those to whom he is a stranger, whose language he does not understand, or, perhaps, imperfectly comprehends, very naturally draws himself up, assumes a grave air, speaks with much reserve, and but seldom, in short sentences, endeavouring, to the utmost of his ability, to suppress every feeling or expression of wonder or curiosity, as to what may be passing about him; yet much of this extreme caution must be attributed to the fear of displaying his ignorance, and laying himself open to the shafts of ridicule. Of all other things, the Indian most dreads the power of ridicule, and will exercise the greatest forbearance and self-denial for a very long period, in preference to performing an act or asking a question which might subject him to its sting. But let the same Indian meet those to whom he is accustomed, and in whom he feels confidence, and he at once throws off this reserve to appear in his true colours; then, and not till then, some opinion may be formed of his real character. Instead of the taciturn, sedate, and apathetic being he is represented to be, by the most approved authorities, he will be found a talkative and most inquisitive mortal, full of fun and frolic, life and gaiety.—Accompany him to his native forest, in whose wilds he is perfectly at ease, and he discovers an inexhaustible fund of animal spirits, proves a constant joker, one who is led away by every sudden whim or fanciful inclination, and ready, on the instant, to join in anything or