

at some four feet distance from each other. The diameter of this circle might have been four or five rods. The next circle consisted of those whose claims were next preferred, for precedence was guarded with as much care and jealousy as it is among the English nobility. Without the circles of warriors sat, promiscuously grouped, the women, female children, and younger boys—those of the boys who were within some four or five years of manhood, were permitted to mix, though not to seat themselves among the warriors. At a little distance from us, and full in view towards the river, a stake, cut green and peeled, not in stripes, as we are told Jacob peeled the reeds for a purpose which would have been better told elsewhere, was driven into the ground, and a little way from it lay a large heap of dry wood, enough to burn twenty to ashes. Two old women—I have seen pleasanter, were busy kindling a fire, and two others, equally agreeable, were cutting a bull's hide into thongs for lashings. Such were the preparations for the amusements of the morning! amusements got up, too, for our especial benefit. How I shudder when my memory conjures up that spectacle of horror! More than twenty years have passed, and yet, whenever I think of that scene, I start up as if a legion of fiends were chasing me into a narrow gorge with no outlet.

They led us into the inner circle, and made a sign for us to sit down. One of the chiefs then rose and commenced his speech. As near as I can recollect it was in these words:—

“Brothers, you know the wrongs we have received from Yonondio.* You know the wrongs we have received from Corlaer.† The hands of both are very heavy. I speak the truth.

“Brothers, we made war with Yonondio. We laid our hands upon his. Ours were the heaviest. Each tried to throw a spear, we threw ours the farthest. Each bent a bow, but the sprout of which Yonondio's was made was in the acorn, when ours was the height of a man. We conquered. Brothers, these words are true.

“Brothers, Corlaer is very wise and very brave; so are the owl, and the panther, and the Iroquoise. We tried our

* Yonondio, the French.

† Corlaer, the English.