

of remarking their attainments in this science. Some specimens of Indian Speeches are given, and several occasions occurred in which the chiefs had opportunities of displaying their abilities in this way, for all their councils and at most of their feasts and ceremonies, whatever be their object or whatever event they are designed to celebrate; the speeches delivered by the chiefs form a conspicuous part. We select the following specimen of these speeches as the most complete we find in the work, and which was delivered at a time, and on an occasion when it might have been expected to make a deep impression on the mind of the party concerned. After the surprise and massacre of the English in Fort Mishilimacinac,* our writer was among the few who were taken prisoners and carried off by the Indians, and who naturally conceived that they were reserved to glut the vengeance of their conquerors by being put to death under excruciating tortures; a plan many of these ignorant nations think highly necessary to pacify the spirits of such of their tribe as have fallen in battle. Every effort had been made to save our author, by Wawatam, a faithful Indian, who had become attached to him previous to this event; and who had absented himself from the attack on the fort, from his esteem for the English; but not before had obtained a promise from Menahwehna the Indian leader of that enterprise, that his friend, Mr. H. should be saved from death. Returning he finds him a prisoner, and the chiefs assembled in council deliberating as to the method in which they should despatch their prisoners. When the following pathetic appeal is made to them by Wawatam.

“An hour elapsed, during which several chiefs entered, and preparations appeared to be making for a council. At length, Wawatam re-entered the lodge, followed by his wife, and both loaded with merchandize, which they carried up to the chiefs and laid in a heap before them. Some moments of silence followed, at the end of which Wawatam pronounced a speech, every word of which to me, was of extraordinary interest;

“‘Friends and relations,’ he began, ‘what is it that I shall say? you know what I feel. You all have friends and brothers and children, whom as yourselves you love; and you—what would you experience, did you, like me, behold your dearest friend—your brother—in the condition of a slave; a slave, exposed every moment to insult, and to menaces of death? This case, you all know, is mine. See there (*pointing to myself*) my friend and brother among slaves—himself a slave!

“‘You all well know, that long before the war began, I adopted him as my brother. From that moment, he became one of my family, so that no change of circumstances could break the cord which fastened us together,

“‘He is my brother; and, because I am your relation, he is therefore your relation too;—and how, being your relation, can he be your slave?

* See Canadian Magazine, Vol. II. p. 293.