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number cannot be known by the prints of their feet. As they get nearer to the enemy, the more attentive they are in choosing hard, stony ground on which human footsteps leave no impression; soft earth, and even dry grass is studiously avoided, for the appearance of the grass having been trodden on might lead to detection; the sharpness and quickness of the Indian's sight being so great that any signs of this sort never escape their observation.

It is certain that the Indians, by foot-prints and by other marks perceptible to themselves alone can discover not only that men have passed through a particular path in the wood, but they can discriminate to what nation those men belong, and whether they be their friends or their enemies. The following anecdote is one of many instances of their extraordinary sagacity in this respect.

In the beginning of the summer of 1755, a shocking murder was committed by a party of Indians on fourteen white settlers, within a few miles of Shamokin. The surviving whites, in their rage, were determined to take revenge on a Delaware Indian whom they happened to meet near the spot, but who had always been considered a friend. He denied having had any knowledge of the wicked deed, and maintained that his nation was incapable of committing so foul a murder in a time of peace; adding, that he believed it was the act of some wicked Mingoes, or Iroquois, whose custom it was to involve other nations in wars by their treacherous actions; and he offered, if they would give him a party to accompany him, to go in quest of the murderers whom he was sure he could discover by the prints of their feet and other marks well known to him.

His proposal was accepted, and he led a party of whites towards a rocky mountain where not one of those who accompanied him was able to discover a single track; nor did they believe that man had ever trodden upon this ground, when they frequently had to leap over crevices or crawl along the edges of a precipice. They began to think that the Indian had led them across this rugged mountain in order to give the enemy time to