

when the vessels were discharging cargo into the warehouse, we amused ourselves by trying who could carry round the room, on two fingers, the governor of a steam-engine—a mass of metal like a 10-inch shell—and not one of us could carry it half the distance. A middle-sized Indian, who was present, carried it round the warehouse apparently with ease. The constant use of the paddle may be supposed to make the fingers of the Indians strong; but would the use of the axe from childhood not also strengthen the fingers of the woodmen? Why should the fingers of a comparatively small Indian be stronger than the fingers of a powerful American woodman? The generally prevalent opinion, as regards the hand of the Indians, was that it exceeded the white man's hand in power. On a certain occasion, a disturbance having arisen, I armed my men, warning them earnestly not to strike or fire till the last extremity. Every one answered that if the Indians came to close quarters and grasped their clothes, they could not disengage the Indians' hold without drawing blood. The blanket worn by the Indians is a convenient garment in a close struggle. One of my men who had watched an Indian potato-stealer for weeks, gripped him at last one night by slipping round a tree upon him as he was filling his bag; but the savage got off by pulling out the bone skewer that fastened his blanket at the neck, and by running naked across the potato-beds into the thick wood. If an Indian is unarmed, one can hold him only by seizing his hair; if he has a weapon about his person, he should not be seized at all, but should be knocked down. The Indians, as already stated, often carry a knife concealed behind the ear in their long hair.