

his hand he wore a large fan of feathers of the turkey; this he frequently used.

We have never seen a nobler face, or a more impressive character, than that of the Dakota chief, as he stood that afternoon, in this manly and characteristic dress, contemplating a dance performed by the men of his own nation. It was a study worthy of the pencil of Vandyke and of the graver of Berwick. It would require the utmost talent of the artist to convey a fair idea of this chief; to display his manly and regular features, strongly stamped, it is true, with the Indian character, but admirably blended with an expression of mildness and modesty; and it would require no less talent to represent the graceful and unstudied folds of his mantle. However difficult the task of executing such a portrait, Mr. Seymour undertook it, and a plate, engraved from his design, has been introduced as a frontispiece to this volume; it will impart, however, but a faint idea of the features and dress of this distinguished chief.

Having requested that the warriors should favour us with a dance, Wanotan had one performed for us in the afternoon; he apologized for the imperfection of the dancers, the best being then absent from the place. The dresses which they wore, were more carefully arranged than usual, and indicated that some pains had been taken for the occasion. Among the fantastic ornaments which they had assumed, a paper of pins, opened and hanging from the head-dress of one of the warriors, was conspicuous. In his hand he held a wand about ten feet long, to which was attached a piece of red cloth of the same length, and about six inches wide; one of the edges of this band was fastened to the staff; the other was furnished with black and white feathers, closely secured to it by their quills, and forming a sort of fringe. This was one of the two insignia or wands