

honesty. They were still more distinguished for their chastity. There is no instance on record of any insult being ever offered to a female captive, however cruelly they might otherwise have been treated. It would be pleasant to learn the name of any civilized people of whom the same could be said. When we read the tales of Indian atrocities in war, of the murder of infants and mothers, of stealthy midnight murders and barbarous assassinations, we are struck with horror and indignation at the recital. These are proper and natural feelings which do honor to the sensibilities of mankind. But on turning to the other side of the picture, and reading the bald and often distorted statements which have been recorded of the treatment of Indians by white men, who have themselves been the narrators of their own deeds, our views become greatly modified. In the course of this work, many tales of Indian cruelty and revenge will be told, and others not less harrowing, of atrocities committed by Englishmen and New Englanders on both the French and the Indians. When the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth in 1620, they were visited by Massasoit, the great Sachem or King of the tribes in the vicinity. During the thirty years following, Massasoit ever remained their constant friend. When he died, his son Alexander renewed the old treaties of friendship with the New Englanders, and all went on harmoniously until the people of Plymouth, on the pretext that he entertained designs unfriendly to them, caused him to be ignominiously arrested and threatened with instant death if he did not immediately appear before their Council. The insult threw him into a burning fever, and two days afterwards he died, probably from natural causes, but the Indians firmly believe that the white men poisoned him. King Philip, his brother and successor, with a soul rankling with hatred, resolved to avenge the wrong. The great Indian war of 1675 was the result, and few civilized wars have been undertaken for a better cause. Unfortunately for the Indians, their enemies have been their only historians; the record of their cruelties remains, but the wrongs which provoked them are either untold, or are ignored and forgotten.

The warlike weapons of the Indians, before the white men visited them, consisted of bows and arrows, the latter tipped with stone or bone, and battle-axes or tomahawks of stone. The scalping knife was made of a sharpened bone or the edge of a broken