

unusual American tribute and says the natives practically saved the lives of the first settlers by their generosity in supplying corn and other food. Similar experiences have been recorded by others, and the response which history stamps upon the white man is found in such kidnapping episodes as have already been described, in the aggressive policy of Champlain, in the harshness of the New England settlers, in the cruelties of the Spaniards to the south, in the indescribable horrors of the Cortez and Pizarro campaigns.

The character of the Indian, in days when the whole wild continent was his, differs so greatly from the emasculated product of modern civilization that no judgment of former conditions can be based upon present appearances. Though the matter of origin has never been settled there were similarities which stamped the savages of America as possible descendants of migrating Tartars from the steppes of Central Asia. They were, as a rule, tall and slender and agile in form, with faces bronzed by sun and wind and rain. Their expression was stern and sombre, seldom or never marked by a smile. Their heads had high cheek bones, small, sunken and keenly flashing eyes, narrow foreheads, thick lips, somewhat flat noses and coarse hair. The senses of sight and sound and smell and feeling were developed into a sort of forest instinct which seemed almost supernatural to the early white settlers and finds such vivid expression in Fenimore Cooper's brilliant romances. Their costume of deer-skin and moccasins, their necklaces of wampum and shells, their ornaments of feathers, claws or scalps, their fondness for daubing the body and face with vermilion paint, their use of the arrow, the tomahawk and the scalping-knife, soon became terribly familiar to the ring of white man who, century by century, slowly drove in and dispossessed these earlier owners of the soil—as it is not improbable they had driven the still more ancient race whose mounds and buried cities and curious remains still excite the wonder of the archæologist, from the far north to the farthest south.