

Mr. Noble was sold to a baker in Quebec, and his wife to a lady in the same place as a house servant; they were allowed to see each other, which was a great consolation, and they had at least the comfort of knowing that their children were alive and would be taken care of. One boy, Joseph, was retained by the Indians and brought up in the same manner as their own children; two others with young Whidden and Mary Holmes were sold as slaves to different families in Quebec. All these captives excepting Joseph were ransomed and returned to their homes in little more than a year.

Frances Noble, the youngest child, was at the time she was brought from Maine into Canada, only fifteen months old. She was carried by a party of Indian women to Montreal. In their attempts to dispose of her they took her one day to the house of Monsieur de Sainte Auge, a wealthy merchant of that city. His wife was called into the kitchen to see a poor little infant in rags and dirt crawling on the tile floor. This lady had very recently lost a child of the same age by death, and perhaps for this reason was more disposed to love, and to feel for the sufferings of children than she would otherwise have been. She noticed the child kindly and took it in her arms. The Indians offered to sell the little captive, but she declined buying, not choosing to make such a purchase in the absence of her husband. The women left the house, but not without having observed the tender fondness with which the French lady had looked on the child; they slept on the pavement on the outside of the door, but poor Frances who had again heard the voice of kindness could not be quieted by her rough nurse, and her incessant cries disturbed the sleep of Madame de Sainte Auge. The next day, on Monsieur de Sainte Auge's return, the Indians were called into the house and Frances was purchased; for what sum she could never learn, as her *French mother*, as she was called, always refused to answer questions on that subject.

Frances was treated with the greatest kindness by this worthy couple, and soon learned to consider them as her