

# THE AMARANTH.

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## The Trapper Firing the Village.

FONTAINEVILLE, for some years after its first being settled by the French, was a quiet little place; Aborigines and villagers lived upon friendly, and occasionally upon intimate terms. There appeared no rivalry nor jealousy. It were pleasure to see a group assembled after return from mass on Sundays or Saint days, in the evening, beneath the shade of a wide spreading sugar tree—their eyes sparkling with vivacity; telling over the scenes of past days, and the happiness reserved for the virtuous in times to come.

It may be necessary, for the information of the readers of The Amaranth abroad, to describe the dress and some of the habits of this people, denominated French Acadians; which will apply to the eastern shore generally, as well as to Fontainville. The ordinary dress of the females consists of a dark blue short gown of domestic cloth; petticoat of the same, save its being striped dark blue, with a few shades lighter; wooden shoes; chemise of domestic linen, not unlike the packing cloth of commerce; a close cap of blue and white calico, with a tight band beneath the chin, protruding the cheeks considerably. The extraordinary, displays the cap bound round with bright scarlet worsted tape; the cuffs of the sleeves of the chemise of white cotton, neatly edged and dotted with needlework; a kerchief of musquito netting over the bosom; a sort of vest covering beneath the arms and across the breast, of bright scarlet bombazet; blue woollen stockings and leather shoes, pointed and turned up at the toes, with notches across the instep, of the size of the teeth of a carpenter's hand-saw; the same short gown as on ordinary occasions, flowing at the waist and compressing the breast much; petticoat bound

around the bottom with bright scarlet worsted tape, and a blue and white kerchief in the hand. There is an aperture in the posterior part of the cap through which flows beautiful hair, sometimes to the length of three feet and more. In winter, we observe in addition, woollen mitts, fancifully dotted with scarlet on a blue or white ground, and a plait and ball affixed to hang them up by; also a fancy cotton kerchief over the head, pinned on either side to the cap. The wedding dress is another article. There is an attractive power in a female's wedding dress in all civilized countries, and the eye naturally falls involuntarily upon it; few of my readers there be who will not have come within the scope of this magnet. Here it is a family affair, handed down from generation to generation;—it is a substantial calico of white ground, covered sparingly with a blue running vine, of dimensions adapting it to the small or great, high or low of stature;—not much unlike our grandmother's loose gown with the bosom removed; a white cotton close cap, with a stiff border, ornamented with needle-work; several bouquets of bright scarlet ribbons; a tin, silver, or brass ring on the finger; and the residue as on any extraordinary occasions.

The ordinary winter dress of the males consists of a stout blue domestic woollen cloth jacket, with black iron buttons; vest of the same; trousers of like cloth, shewing several inches above the ankles, and at the bottom near a half yard in width, the seat falling more near the knee than to the place usually assigned it by others; domestic linen shirt with large collar; woollen stockings, and moccasins; a huge sealskin turban, and woollen mitts. In summer, the trousers and shirt are of like fabric, straw hat and large leather boots. We frequently, however, see them with the fur turban in the hottest summer day, and a straw hat in the coldest day of winter. The extraordinary and wedding dress approaches near to