

The natives are however a people of a middle size, of a copper complexion, their features regular and agreeable, and few distorted or deformed persons are seen among them. When young they have excessive large bellies, which is to be attributed to the enormous quantity of food they devour; but as they grow towards puberty this part decreases to a common size. Their constitutions are strong and healthy, and their disorders few; the chief of these is the dysentery, and a violent pain in the breast, which the English call the Country Distemper. The latter is supposed to proceed from the cold air being drawn into the lungs; which impeding the vessels from spreading throughout that organ, hinders the circulation, and renders respiration extremely painful and difficult. They seldom live to a great age, but enjoy all their faculties to the last.

In their dispositions they are mild, affable, and good-natured, when sober; but when intoxicated they are lost to every social quality, and discover the greatest propensity to quarrelling, theft, and the worst of vices. When we view the fair side of their characters, we find them kind, courteous, and benevolent to each other, relieving the wants and necessities of their distressed brethren with the greatest good-nature, either by counsel, food, or cloathing. The good effects of this excellent disposition are frequently experienced by themselves; for, as in their mode of life no one known how soon it may be his own fate to be reduced to the verge of extremity, he secures for himself a return of kindness, should he experience that vicissitude. On the other hand they are sly, cunning, and artful to a great degree; they glory in every species of ferocity and artifice, especially when the theft or deception has been so well executed as to escape detection. Their love to their offspring is carried to a very great height. From the state of childhood to maturity they seldom or never correct their children, alledging, that when they grow up they will know better of themselves. Neither is this indulgence made a bad use of when reflection succeeds the irregularities of youth; on the contrary, sentiments of reverence, gratitude, and love, link their affections to the authors of their being; and they seldom fail to give the utmost assistance to their aged parents whenever their imbecility requires it.

With respect to their corporeal abilities, they are almost without exception great walkers; they patiently endure cold, hunger, and fatigue; and bear all misfortunes with admirable fortitude and resignation, which enables them bravely to encounter the prospect of ill, and renders the mind serene under the pressure of adversity. As their country abounds with innumerable herds of deer, elks, and buffaloes, they