

much ease and exactness, they smile and reply, "How can we go wrong when we know where it is we want to go?"

Their knowledge of astronomy is very limited, they have names for a few of the stars, and take notice of their movements. They distinguish the phases of the moon by particular names, signifying new moon, round moon, and half round.

The Indians are often surprised at the ignorance which white men betray on subjects with which they themselves are well acquainted. A white man had at his camp one dark night, shot an Indian dog, mistaking it for a wolf which had the night before entered the encampment and eaten up all the meat. The dog, though mortally wounded having crawled back to his master's lodge at the distance of a mile, caused much grief to the owner, and the more so as he suspected that the act had been committed out of malice towards the Indians. Being a man of some importance, and the offender only a poor hunter and trapper, he sent a party of Indians to enquire into the matter, upon which the man candidly confessed that he had killed the dog believing him to be a wolf. The Indians asked him whether he could not hear the difference between the steps or trampling of a wolf and that of a dog, let the night be ever so dark? The white man answered that he could not, and added that he believed no man alive could do so: on which the whole party of Indians burst out into laughter at the ignorance of the whites, and their want of skill in so plain and common a matter, and the offence was freely forgiven.

Courage, art, and circumspection, are the indispensable qualifications of either a warrior or a hunter. On drawing near to an enemy's country, the Indians endeavour as much as possible to conceal their tracks. Sometimes they scatter themselves at considerable distances from each other for several days, meeting however at night when they keep watch. At other times they march in *Indian file*, that is, one man behind the other, treading carefully in each other's footsteps so that their

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