

sion to delay their purpose. They began with confining the Indians, men, women, and children. They then took possession of all the horses, axes, pots, kettles, everything they could find; these things they said, had been stolen from the whites during the war, they could swear to it. They then gathered around the miserable prisoners, and informed them of the fate they must prepare for. Some of the most blood-thirsty were anxious to commence the work of blood instantly, but others were willing to allow the Indians the short time which they requested. The latter, finding tears, entreaties, and protestations of no avail, betook themselves to their sad and solemn preparations for death. 'They asked pardon of each other,' says a describer of the scene, 'for whatever offence or grief they had given or occasioned; they kneeled down together and offered fervent prayers to God their Saviour; then kissing each other, with floods of tears, they still sang praises to Him, in the joyful hope of a final and everlasting redemption.'

The murderers, meanwhile, were consulting together upon the best method of despatching them. Some were unwilling, indeed, to take any part in a proceeding of this character. Others proposed setting fire to the houses where the prisoners