

back,' (Ps. cxviii. 3,) not with clubs merely, but even with iron rods, which they have in abundance from their proximity to the Europeans; * one of the first, armed with a ball of iron of the size of a fist, slung to a thong, dealt me so violent a blow that I should have fallen senseless, had not fear of a second given me strength and courage. Running then our long race amid this fearful hail of blows, we with difficulty reached the stage erected in the centre of the village.

If each here presented a face to excite compassion, that of René was certainly the most pitiable. Being by no means quick or active, he had received so many blows all over his body, but especially on his face, that nothing could be distinguished there but the white of his eyes; more beautiful truly as he more resembled him, whom we have beheld "as a leper, and smitten by God for us," "in whom there was no comeliness or beauty."—Isaiah liii. 2.

We had but just time to gain breath on this stage, when one with a huge club gave us Frenchmen three terrible blows on the bare back; the savages now took out their knives and began to mount the stage and cut off the fingers of many of the prisoners; and, as a captive undergoes their cruelty in proportion to his dignity, they began with me, seeing, by my conduct, as well as by their words, that I was in authority among the French and Hurons. Accordingly, an old man and a woman approached the spot where I stood; he commanded his companion to cut off my thumb; she at first

* The Dutch, who then had two forts, where they kept a continual trade; New Amsterdam, now New York, and Rensselaerwick, or Fort Orange, now Albany, about ten or twelve leagues from the first village of the Mohawks.