

Needy, yet in scorn
Rejecting labour, wretched by their wants,
Yet profligate through indolence, with limbs.
Enervated by sloth, their minds corrupt.

GLOVER.

This disregard to decency is wholly confined to the men, the women being always decently clothed, and behaving with that propriety which is so becoming their sex.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARACTER, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS OF THE FIVE INDIAN NATIONS OF CANADA.

Of their general Character and Money.

THE Five Nations consist of as many tribes, united by a sort of confederacy, and without any superiority of the one over the other. The names by which they are known to our countrymen are, Mohawks, Oneydos, Onondagas, Cayygas, and Sennekas.

Each of these nations is an absolute republic by itself; and every castle in each nation makes an independent state, and is governed in all public affairs by its own Sachems. The authority of these rulers is gained by and consists wholly in the opinion that the rest of the natives have of their wisdom and integrity. Force is never resorted to for the purpose of executing their resolutions. Honour and esteem are their principal rewards; and shame the only punishment.

The natives of these tribes think themselves by nature superior to the rest of mankind, and assume a title which, in their language, denotes their pre-eminence. This opinion of their supposed excellence they carefully infuse into the minds of their children, which inspires them with that courage, which has been so terrible to all the nations of North America, and which renders them the objects of fear among the neighbouring Indian nations, from whom they receive a yearly tribute. Two