

of what he had among the Indians. They believe old squaw, and tion of it, is to ows with their reason, before e ground with nsidered to be guardian of the ey imagine she ill resign her rstitution, though fs, is devoutly of the Indian

Habits of Observation, and Knowledge of Nature.

AN early acquired habit of constant attention to every scene and accident that occurs in the woods must necessarily make the Indians pretty good naturalists. They are in general much more familiar with the objects of nature than the white men. Their senses of hearing, sight, and smell, are perfectly astonishing. In their lonely wanderings they have made themselves familiar with the habits of birds, beasts, and reptiles; they have learnt their names and can describe their peculiar characteristics with great accuracy. Listen to a hunter just returned from the chase and you will hear him describe all the arts and wiles which he used in approaching his game with a clearness which would almost make you feel as if you had been with him. Every little incident that occurred such as the rustling of a leaf or the snapping of a dry twig in his cautious approach, is mentioned so naturally, and with so much simplicity in the progress of the story, that although no sportsman, it cannot fail to rivet your attention. You seem to see the deer as he does, to examine the localities, to steal on him step by step till you are within rifle shot of him, you become identified with the narrator—in short you enjoy some of the pleasures of the chase without any of the fatigue.

The geographical knowledge too of the Indians is very great; not the knowledge of maps, for they have nothing of the kind to aid them, but their practical acquaintance with the country that they inhabit. They can steer directly through the woods in cloudy weather as well as in sunshine to the place they wish to go to though at the distance of two or three hundred miles; and when white men express their astonishment, or enquire how they can find the shortest path to a distant point with so