

PRELIMINARY ADDRESS.



The people of America have always borne in their character, a prominent warlike feature. Before ships of discovery had ever ventured across the Atlantic, the savage tribes had been fighting their battles in routine, and every Indian carried his war-club, his rude bow and flint-headed arrows ready for combat. The battles, skirmishes and bloodshed of every description, which took place when the country began to be colonised, are too many to be reckoned. Spaniards, French and English, with the savages, either as their allies, or as their enemies, were prostrated in death together. The colonies protected the lands which they had siezed or acquired, with their arms, and silenced the demands of the old possessors, with their swords and muskets. And at this day, in North America, where the natives are not so completely subjected as in South America, wars and murders are constantly progressing.

Armed troops were the first to penetrate the forests and desart wilds of this country, in pursuit of some remote fortress, or upon some hazardous expedition, traversed and explored extensive tracts, which till then were entirely unknown.