

“ Know then, valiant Americans, that in
 “ the country of which I am a native, there
 “ are some men who possess a superior know-
 “ ledge of the secrets of nature. One of those
 “ sages, connected to me by the ties of kin-
 “ dred, imparted to me, when I became a
 “ soldier, a charm to make me invulnerable.
 “ You must have observed how I have esca-
 “ ped all your darts: without such a charm,
 “ would it have been possible for me to have
 “ survived all the mortal blows you have aim-
 “ ed at me? For I appeal to your own valour,
 “ to testify that mine has sufficiently exerted
 “ itself, and has not avoided any danger.
 “ Life is not so much the object of my re-
 “ quest, as the glory of having communicated
 “ to you a secret of so much consequence to
 “ your safety, and of rendering the most va-
 “ liant nation upon the earth, invincible.
 “ Suffer me only to have one of my hands at
 “ liberty, in order to perform the ceremonies
 “ of enchantment, of which I will now make
 “ trial on myself before you.”

The Indians listened with eagerness to this
 discourse, which was flattering both to their
 warlike character and their turn for the
 marvellous. After a short consultation, they
 untied one of the prisoner's arms. The High-
 lander begged that they would put his broad
 sword into the hands of the most expert and
 stoutest among them; and at the same time