

a stronger man thinks worth his notice, or whom he wants to assist in carrying his goods.

This savage and unnatural custom prevails throughout all their tribes, and excites a spirit of emulation among youth to distinguish themselves in gymnastic exercises, to enable them to protect their wives and property.

The manner in which they tear the women an other property from each other, is not so much by fighting as by hauling each other by the hair of the head. Seldom any hurt is done in those rencounters. Before the contest begins, it is not unusual for one or both of the combatants to cut of his hair, and to grease his ears in private. If one only is shorn, though he be the weakest man, he generally obtains the victory; so that it is evident, address will ever exceed mere strength among all nations.

The by-standers never interfere on these occasions; not even the nearest relations, except by advice to pursue or abandon the contest. Scarcely a day passes without some overtures being

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