

The action being ended, the conquerors scalp those that are killed, plunder the vanquished, seize the horses, and hastily retire; marching day and night until they reach their own country. Certain that they are then secure from danger, they halt and divide the spoil. When the conquering party is within one day's journey from the village, they light fires on elevated grounds, as tokens of success. Upon this, all the old men advance, to hear an account of the expedition; after which, the chief commands them to go and announce it in the village. The women, on hearing it, make the air resound with their songs. The old men carry the scalps fastened to long sticks painted red, and are followed by the warriors, who are thanked for having revenged their nation, and are held up as examples to the youth. In short, they all seem more like drunken people, than those animated by any sentiment of pleasure: these demonstrations of joy being ended, the scalps are deposited in the Lodge of Old Men.

The women and children that are taken prisoners, never experience any bad treatment. The savages of Canada, on the contrary, either burn or eat theirs.

On the following day, a great feast is prepared for the warriors, and the old men announce the scalp-dance. On this, the women adorn themselves in the finest manner; and the warriors assemble at the Lodge of Old Men, and again relate the particulars of their victory. Afterwards they depart, carrying with them the scalps and their prisoners. Three old men follow, bearing each a kettle-drum. They are met by the women, who proceed with them to the destined spot; the men form a circle, and place the women before them. A fire is then lighted in the centre, near to which is laid a large piece of meat, an ox's tongue, a scalp, and a human heart dried. Silence being procured, the oldest men begin the song; which being ended, three old men advance; one takes the meat, another the tongue, and the third the scalp and heart; and holding them up, they walk three times round the fire, and then cast them into the midst of the flames. To this succeeds the dance, which continues for many days.

As the savages celebrate their victories with the most extravagant marks of joy, so do they also bewail defeats with the deepest sorrow. Some never cease lamenting the slain, until their deaths have been revenged. Others are only afflicted for a few days, and then are comforted by the old men, who remind them that those killed in battle will be received by the Great Spirit with the greatest honour. These principles are so deeply engraven on their hearts from their earliest years, that fathers often rejoice at the death of their sons, and wives at that of their husbands.