

on, that she could not die in peace, unless he promised to use his utmost endeavours to restore her adopted child to his natural parents.

The Huron Indians of this village are, it seems, very sincere Christians ; they respected this woman's pleas of conscience, and readily consented that the father should take what measures he thought fit to fulfil her request. She died contented, after embracing the child with the strongest marks of affection.

The missionary immediately took him to his own cabin, where he treated him with great tenderness. He wrote to the Father Rector of the Jesuits College in Montreal, gave him an account of the whole affair, and desired his advice in what manner he should proceed.

The Rector sent for the child. His beauty and sprightliness pleased him. In a short time, the amiableness of his manners, and his insinuating sweetness and gentleness of disposition, engaged his affections so powerfully, that not being able to bear the thoughts of parting with him, he was less active than he ought to have been, in his endeavours to restore him to his parents.

It is true, that the missionary could give him but little intelligence.—All he had learned from William, with whom he never chose to converse upon the subject, was, that he was the son of an English officer of family and fortune, but his name he knew not, nor where he was stationed. The place indeed where the Indians found him, might naturally have led him to conclude, that his father belonged to the troops of New-York ; and the singular mark upon the child's breast could not fail of making him be acknowledged.—But still there were many difficulties to be got over, before this could be done ; and the Father Rector made the most of them.

Meantime, finding in him an astonishing capacity, he cultivated his natural abilities with the utmost care. Being a man of genius, and an excellent scholar, the little Edward, under his tuition, advanced so fast in his learning, that he was considered as a prodigy. He was not only a favourite in the college, but all the persons of any fashion in Montreal, were fond of the handsome little Huron ; for a good grace is to the body, what good sense is to the mind, it creates respect and conciliates kindness. He learned to dance, to fence, to ride, with the principal youth of the city. He was admired and beloved—but he was not happy : as his years increased, he sighed in secret for that sweet intercourse of parental affection, and filial duty and tenderness ; impressions which he had re-

ceived from nature, which he felt in early childhood, and were strengthened with the growth of his reason.

His préceptor had taken care to sow the seeds of piety in his mind ; but these seeds, being to spring up and flourish in a religion loaded with inextricable difficulties, defaced by absurdities, errors, and contradictions which his natural sagacity, aided by reflection uncommon at his age, enabled him to discover : no wonder that their growth was checked, and that he was involved in a labyrinth of doubts and perplexities, which was likely to have the fatal tendency, of making him indifferent to religion itself.

One of Mrs. Neville's first cares, was to prevent this misfortune, by giving him right notions of the Christian religion, as taught by the divine founder of it. He grows more enlightened every day, and improved in the study of the Scriptures ; and when he has English enough, the excellent sermons of Doctor Clarke, the best expounder of them, will make, I hope, a good Protestant of a very indifferent Roman Catholic.

The people at Montreal had a suspicion, that the Father Rector, from the high opinion he entertained of our Edward's natural abilities, had formed the design of making a Jesuit of him, conceiving that he would, in time, become an ornament to their order ; and hence might arise the indifference he expressed about restoring him to his parents and his country ; a design universally disapproved. But if this was his design, Providence defeated it, by enabling William, at length, to escape from the Algonquins, and to arrive at Montreal, after having surmounted dangers, and suffered hardships, to which human nature seemed wholly unequal.

His intention was to proceed to Quebec, and to petition the Governor in behalf of Edward ; hoping to interest his justice and compassion, for the son of an officer, who was heir to a considerable name and fortune.

In order to know if the dear boy was still alive, he went to the Jesuit's College, where the Huron missionary was sometimes to be met with. He presented himself at the gate, at the very moment when the Father Rector, accompanied by the principal gentlemen of Montreal, were coming out, among whom was Edward. The squalid appearance of this Indian, as William was supposed to be ; his body almost sinking with fatigue, and emaciated with famine, drew every eye upon him, while his were eagerly fixed upon our dear boy, whom he instantly knew. He threw himself upon his knees, thank-