

scene of cruelties exercised by the several parties of English and Iroquois, French and Hurons, whose ravages extended three hundred miles from home, some actions were performed, which seemed to render human nature superior to such enormities. Some French and Indians having joined in an expedition that required a long march, their provisions began to fail. The Hurons caught plenty of game, and always offered some to the French, who were not such skilful huntsmen. The latter would have declined accepting this generous offer. "You share with us the fatigues of war," said the savages; "it is but reasonable that we should share with you the necessaries of life; we should not be men if we acted otherwise." If similar instances of magnanimity may have sometimes occurred in civilized life, the following is peculiar to savages. A party of Iroquois being informed that a party of the French traders and their allies were advancing with superior forces, they fled with precipitation. They were headed by Onontague, who was a hundred years old. He scorned to fly with the rest, and chose rather to fall into the hands of the enemy; though he had nothing to expect but exquisite torments. What a spectacle, to see four hundred barbarians eager in tormenting an old man; who, far from complaining, treated the French with the utmost contempt, and upbraided the Hurons with having stooped to be slaves to those vile Europeans! One of his tormentors, provoked at his invectives, stabbed him in three places, to put an end to his repeated insults. "Thou dost wrong," said Onontague calmly to him; "to shorten my life; thou wouldst have more time to learn to die like a man!"

The peace of Ryswick put a sudden stop to these calamities. The Hurons and the Iroquois, as well as the English and French, were sensible that they required a long duration of peace to repair the losses they had sustained in the war. The Indians began to recover themselves; the Europeans resumed their labours; and the fur trade, the first that could be entered into with a nation of Huntsmen, was more firmly established. It received, however, many severe and fatal shocks previous to the conquest of Canada; at which period it is our intention to renew the subject in our next number.