

may safely be alleged, that there is in a *Prairie* Indian, a stern yet passionate energy which a *pale face* can never rival. At the command of his chief, to gratify his own revenge, or to injure the enemies of his tribe, he will bear hunger, thirst, fatigue, and privation to an extent which appears almost beyond human endurance. He will track an enemy for weeks, follow him when he travels, watch him when he halts; and, true to his dogma, he will wait with the most untiring patience for the safest moment to strike the blow. If he fall into the hands of his enemy he resigns himself, without an entreaty for mercy, to his fate. If his death is to be a speedy one, he wraps his blanket round his head, and thus awaits the shot or the blow which is to finish his career; if he is to be exposed to a lingering death by torture, he will, at the stake, taunt and mock his tormentors: 'tis not of the frantic victims of the revolutionary guillotine of whom alone it might be said that "even the scaffold echoes to their jest."

For this endurance the youthful Indian of the *Prairie* tribes is prepared by long training, by the counsels of the elders, and by the example of the warriors of his tribe. No squire in the days of chivalry was more severely tried before he won the spurs of knighthood, than is a *Prairie*