

counsel, they would not be wise,—the fault is not mine.' Behold," said this man, pompously, "how men [161] of intelligence behave." Oh, how much pride needs to be instructed! It checks anger, it seems to give patience; and in the end it does nothing that avails, casting men into a darkness more sombre than night, and making them utter impertinences which belong only to fools and to lunatics. Let us change the subject.

The Hiroquois, having carried away a poor old woman more than seventy years old, tore out her toe-nails and finger-nails, and applied burning torches to several parts of her body; they took her away with other prisoners to their country. When they came to pass a rapid or waterfall where every one went on shore, this poor woman, without seeming to take any notice, picked up a shell that she found on the strand, and held it tight, not uttering a word. That night, when all were asleep, she quietly cut her cords with this shell, and fled stealthily into the woods. She succeeded so well that her enemies could not find her again; and she reached the three Rivers on the sixth day after having left the Hiroquois, having traveled—partly on foot, [162] and partly by water, in a wretched Hiroquois canoe that she found—during all that time, and this without eating. In truth, it is really astonishing that a woman nearly eighty years old could traverse so many thickets,—almost entirely naked, her feet throbbing with pain, her toes without nails, her sides all burned, assailed by armies of thousands of mosquitoes, with which these countries are infested,—and endure these hardships for five or six days without taking any food.