

While victors and vanquished pursued their route, two young men went on in advance, to convey the news of the victory. A great many persons came at once to meet them a full day's [164] journey. The women brought Indian corn and other food, which they offered to the warriors who had come to a halt on the arrival of these vivandieres. The prisoners, both men and women, were made to dance, and the night passed amid shouts of rejoicing.

On the following day, as they approached a Village, they found a large cabin all prepared; it was furnished with fires and fireplaces, prepared in various places. Some Demons were waiting there for the captives, who were brought in triumph, tied and bound like poor victims of death. A crowd of men, women, and little children surrounded them, rending the air with sounds as dismal to the vanquished as they were pleasant to the victors. When they entered this Hell, they were received with heavy blows from sticks; cords were tied around their wrists, which the strongest among their foes tightened with enraged fury. The pain of this is very severe. Their arms were slashed; their backs and shoulders were gashed; their fingers were cut off,—on some, many; on others, few,—not with knives, but with scales of fishes, so that the torture might be [165] more cruel, more lasting, and more painful. The poor creature who escaped, had both her thumbs cut, or rather hacked off. “When they had cut them off,” she said, “they wished to force me to eat them; but I put them on my lap, and told them that they could kill me if they liked, but that I could not obey them.”

After this first reception, food was brought to them,