

thou understand me? Cut off thine ears, and take those of some Savage; and then thou wilt understand me very well."

I must not forget the clever evasion, accompanied by bluster, of one who showed himself a coward in the battle between the Hurons and the Hiroquois. A Huron, already advanced in years, who was frightened by the sight of the fires and the noise of the weapons, fled so far into the woods that it was a long time before he reappeared. When his victorious comrades, who had not found him among the [149] dead, saw him return, they laughingly gave him a nickname. He tried to elude their banter, and said to them: "My nephews, you have no occasion to laugh and to jeer at me, as much as at your own cowardice. Had you displayed as much courage as your uncle showed in pursuing the enemy, you would have had more prisoners than you have. I ran so far and so fast that at last, when those whom I pursued had tired me out, I lost myself and strayed in the woods; that is why I delayed so long after the others." The Savages were satisfied with this explanation,—not because they did not perceive the falsehood, but because they know not what it is to cover the face of a poor man with shame and confusion. They never push one another to extremities, so as to be reduced to silence and to be nonplused.

I shall here relate an instance that deserves to be classed among the memorable friendships of antiquity. A young Hiroquois, 19 or twenty years of age, had escaped from the defeat of those people whom we [150] mentioned above. But, when he was quite out of danger, he observed that his elder brother, whom he had given his word never to abandon,