

cope with so numerous a force as that of the English. But our Savages have performed numberless acts that are much more daring. I will relate to you only a single one, which will enable you to judge of the others.

During the late wars, a party of thirty Savages were returning from a military expedition against the English. As the Savages, and especially the *Abnakis*, know not how to guard themselves against surprises, they had gone to sleep in their first resting-place without even a thought of posting a sentinel for the night. A body of 600 English, commanded by a Colonel, pursued them as far as their *cabanage*; and, finding them plunged in sleep, he ordered his troops to surround them, fully expecting that not one of them would escape. One of the Savages, having awakened and perceiving the English troops, immediately informed his tribesmen—crying out, according to their custom: *We are dead men, let us sell our lives dearly.* Their decision was very soon made; they instantly formed six platoons of five men each; then, with a hatchet in one hand, and a knife in the other, they rushed upon the English with so much impetuosity and fury that, after having killed more than sixty men, among which number was the Colonel, they put the remainder to flight.

The *Abnakis* had no sooner learned in what manner their tribesmen were treated in Boston, than they bitterly complained that, in the midst of the peace which was then reigning, the rights of men should be thus violated. The English answered that they were holding the prisoners only as hostages for the injury that had been done them in killing some