

country they occupied, surrounded by the abundant gifts of nature, sufficient for the supply of every want, and unaccountable to any master, save the Grand Master of the Universe. Thus they passed their lives in happy simplicity and contentment, little dreaming of the disastrous future that awaited them. The first white men who visited these tribes were received with friendship, and entertained with hospitality. But, alas! it was but a brief space before this kind reception met with an ungrateful return. Soon were these children of nature to be driven from the forests and prairies, through and over which they had been accustomed to roam unmolested and uncontrolled; to be expelled from their beautiful villages where their ancestors were born; from the hunting grounds which for so many generations had supplied them with game—yea, even denied the last consolation of decaying nature, that of mingling their ashes with the dust of their kindred. Why then should we express any wonder that the untutored and injured Indian, goaded on by such harrowing recollections, should feel resentment, and seek to avenge himself on those who have wrought this crushing misery! To feel and act otherwise, would rather evince a want of the noblest and holiest feelings of our nature—filial attachment, and a love of our homes and firesides. Compared with nations of antiquity, who were classed as refined and civilized, the North American Indians would lose nothing in the scale of humanity. Many of the battles of the ancients were equally sanguinary, and blackened by deeds as cruel and cold-blooded in their character. Even among our own people, acts of atrocity have been committed on the Indian, revolting to humanity, and contrary to every principle of honorable warfare.

There is much that is noble and elevating in the character of the Indian yet left to him. But how different is the present from his original character. When first visited by Europeans, he walked erect, with the proud and haughty bearing of one conscious of his independence, and freedom from restraint; yet with all this feeling, he would extend the hand of friendship, and en-