

prised to see them with so much apparent pleasure inflict such a cruel death on an unfortunate old man; that the laws of war did not extend so far, and that it appeared to me that such barbarity gave the lie to all those good principles they pretended to entertain towards mankind. One of the Iroquois answered, that if any of them should fall into the hands of the Foxes and Saguis, they would experience still more cruel treatment, and that it was a custom with them to treat their enemies as they should be treated by them if they were taken.

I wished much to have been acquainted with the language of this Indian, to have shown him what was blamable in his answer; but was obliged to content myself with desiring my interpreter to represent to him, that nature and religion still more required that we should be humane towards each other, and that moderation should guide us in all our actions; that pardon, and a forgiveness of injuries, were virtues, the practice of which was expressly commanded by heaven; that I conceived it would not be safe for them to spare the Fox or Saguis Indians, but that if they put them to death, it should be as foes to their nation, and not as private enemies; that such revenge was criminal, and that to exercise such excesses as they had toward the five unfortunate men they had put to death with such cruel torments, in some degree justified the barbarity with which they reproached their enemies; that the laws of war only permitted them to take the life of their enemy, and not to glut themselves with his blood, or drive them to despair by destroying them in any other way than by combat and arms! In fine, that they ought to set the Foxes and Saguis that example of moderation which is the proof of a good heart, and which makes the Christian religion and those who profess it, so much loved and admired.

I do not know whether my interpreter explained my sentiments clearly, but the Indian could not be brought to confess that he acted on a false principle. I was proceeding to urge further reasons, when orders were given to advance against the last post of the enemy, which was situated on a little river which runs into another river that communi-