

**DEPPING'S EVENING
ENTERTAINMENTS: COMPRISING
DELINEATIONS OF THE MANNERS
AND CUSTOMS OF VARIOUS
NATIONS**

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Depping's Evening Entertainments: Comprising Delineations of the Manners and Customs of Various Nations by Anonymous

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COMPRISING

DELINEATIONS

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MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF VARIOUS NATIONS.

SECOND SERIES.



A NEW EDITION, ENLARGED AND IMPROVED,
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EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS.

FIRST EVENING.



MR. OAKLEY was not long absent from his family: on the evening after his return, as soon as the tea-service was removed, Captain Martin drew from his portfolio of sketches one which afforded the children no little amusement, and furnished a text for a discourse of the traveller concerning the Indians of North America.

This picture,* said the Captain, was drawn while I was travelling in Canada. It represents some of the Indians bargaining with our people, and disposing of their furs for English goods of various kinds. The old fellow with a beard, in the right foreground, is a Jew of our party, who is affecting to be very much horrified at the Indian chief's asking him for a fox's skin, about half what we all knew it to be worth. The Indian, however, had his eye on a particular trinket in the Jew's possession and allowed him

* See cut above.

to make his own terms till that was obtained, and then he became the most impracticable higgler of his whole tribe. There were no more bargains made out of his furs.

Gustav. Is the fur trade an extensive one in Canada?

Captain M. Very extensive, and taking into consideration with Canada the rest of British America, it becomes a trade of immense importance. You know there are forts and trading-houses established in various parts of that vast region under the direction of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Gustav. The persons who carry on this trade must have a fine opportunity for observing the manners and customs of the Indians. Are they not a very singular race?

Captain M. Yes; they have many peculiarities.

Edward. What is their appearance?

Captain M. They are tall and well made men, copper-coloured, with high cheek-bones, black eyes and straight black hair. Formerly some tribes flattened the heads of their infants by pressing them between two boards. But this, I believe, is not practised now, east of the Rocky Mountains. The women are small, short, and ugly, at least so far as my observation extended.

Gustav. What are their employments?

Captain M. Hunting and fishing in time of peace, and hard fighting in time of war. They are very expert hunters. The little agriculture they carry on is principally done by the women. Their sight, smell, and hearing are rendered very acute by constant exercise. They trace a man through the wood as unerringly as a bloodhound.

Gustav. Do they still use the bow and arrows?

Captain M. Many of them do, and others have muskets which they have bought of the whites. Their dress is very curious. Some of them wear skins and feathers, and paint their faces.

The Indians never chastise their children, especially the boys; thinking that it would damp their spirits, check their love of independence, and cool their martial ardour, which they wish above all things to encourage. "Reason," say they, "will guide our children, when they come to the use of it; and before that their faults cannot be very great." They avoid compulsory measures, and allow the boys to act with uncontrolled freedom; but endeavour by example, instruction, and advice, to train them to diligence and skill in hunting; to animate them with patience, courage, and fortitude in war; and to inspire them with contempt of danger, pain, and death,—qualities of the highest order in the estimation of an Indian.

By gentleness and persuasion they endeavour to imbue the minds of their children with virtuous sentiments, according to their notions of virtue. The aged chiefs are zealous in this patriotic labour, and the squaws give their cordial co-operation.

Ishuchenau, an old Kanza warrior, often admonished the group of young auditors who gathered around him of their faults, and exhorted them never to tell a lie, and never to steal, except from an enemy, whom it is just to injure in every possible way. "When you become men," said he, "be brave and cunning in war, and defend your hunting-grounds against all encroachments: never suffer your squaws and little ones to want; protect them and strangers from insult. On no occasion betray a friend; be revenged on your enemies; drink not the poisonous strong-water of the white people, for it is sent by the bad spirit to destroy the Indians. Fear not death, none but cowards fear to die. Obey and venerate old people, particularly your parents. Fear and propitiate the bad spirit, that he may do you no harm: love and adore the Good Spirit, who made