

and the decision be unanimous. The chiefs and sages—the leaders and orators—occupy the most conspicuous seats; behind them are arranged the younger braves, and still further in the rear appear the women and youth, as spectators. All are equally attentive. A dead silence reigns throughout the assemblage. The great pipe, gaudily adorned with paint and feathers, is lighted, and passed from mouth to mouth, commencing with the chief highest in rank, and proceeding by regular graduation to the inferior order of braves. If two or three nations are represented, the pipe is passed from one party to the other, and salutations are courteously exchanged before the business of the council is opened by the respective speakers. Whatever jealousy or party spirit may exist in the tribe, it is carefully excluded from this dignified assemblage, whose orderly conduct, and close attention to the proper subject before them, might be imitated with profit by some enlightened bodies in Christendom.

It was an alarming evidence of the temper now prevailing among them, and of the bloody storm that filled their minds, that no propriety of demeanor marked the entrance of the savages into the council room. The usual formalities were forgotten, or purposely dispensed with, and an insulting levity substituted in its place. The chiefs and braves stalked in, with an appearance of light regard, and seated themselves promiscuously on the floor, in front of the commissioners. An air of insolence marked all their movements, and showed an intention to dictate terms, or to fix a quarrel upon the Americans.

A dead silence rested over the group? it was the silence of dread, distrust, and watchfulness; not of respect. The eyes of the savage band gloated upon the banquet of blood that seemed already spread out before them; the pillage of the fort and the bleeding scalps of the Americans, were almost within their grasp; while that gallant little band saw the portentous nature of the crisis, and stood ready to sell their lives as dearly as possible.

The Commissioners, without noticing the disorderly conduct of the other party, or appearing to have discovered their meditated treachery, opened the council in due form. They lighted the peace-pipe, and after drawing a few whiffs, passed it to the chiefs, who received it. Col. Clark then rose to explain the purpose for which the treaty was ordered. With an unembarrassed air, with the tone of one accustomed to command, and the easy assurance of their perfect security, and self-possession, he stated that the commissioners had been sent to offer peace to the Shawanoes; and that the President had no wish to continue the war; he had no resentment to gratify; and that if the red men desired peace, they should have it on liberal terms. "If such be the will of the Shawanoes," he concluded, "let some of the wise men speak."

A chief arose, drew up his tall person to its full height, and assuming a haughty attitude, threw his eye contemptuously over the commissioners and their small retinue, as if to measure their insignificance, in comparison with his own numerous train, and then stalked to the table, threw upon it two belts of wampum, of different colors—the war and peace belt.

"We come," he exclaimed, "to offer you two pieces of wampum; they are of two different colors; you know what they mean; you can take which you like!" And turning upon his heel resumed his seat.

The chiefs drew themselves up in the consciousness of having hurled defiance in the teeth of the white men. They had offered an insult to the renowned leader of the Long Knives, to which they knew it would be hard for him to submit, while they did not suppose he would dare to resent it. The council-pipe was laid aside. Those fierce wild men gazed intently at Clark. The Americans saw that the crisis had arrived; they could no longer doubt that the Indians understood the advantage they possessed, and were disposed to use it; and a common sense of danger caused each eye to turn on the leading commissioner. He sat undisturbed, and apparently careless, until the chief who had thrown the belts upon the table had taken his seat; then, with a small cane which he held in his hand, he reached, as if playfully, towards the war belt, entangled the end of the stick in it, drew it towards him, and then with a twitch of the cane, threw the belt in the midst of the chiefs. The effect was electric. Every man in council, of each party, sprang to their feet; the savages with a loud exclamation of astonishment, "Hugh!" the American in expectation of a hopeless conflict against overwhelming numbers. Every hand grasped a weapon.

Clark alone was unawed. The expression of his countenance

changed to a ferocious sternness, and his eye flashed, but otherwise he was unmoved. A bitter smile was slightly perceptible on his compressed lips, as he gazed upon that savage band, whose hundred eyes were bent fiercely in horrid exultation upon him, as they stood like a pack of wolves at bay, thirsting for blood, and ready to rush upon him, whenever one bolder than the other should commence the attack. It was one of those moments of indecision, when the slightest weight thrown into either scale, will make it preponderate; a moment in which a bold man, conversant with the secret spring of human action, may seize upon the mind of all around him, and sway them at his will. Such a man was the intrepid Virginian. He spoke, and there was no man bold enough to gainsay him—none that could return the fierce glance of his eye. Raising his arm and waving his hand towards the door, he exclaimed, "Dogs, you may go!" The Indians hesitated for a moment, and then rushed tumultuously out of the council-room.

The decision of Clark, on that occasion, saved himself and comrades from massacre. The plan of the savages had been artfully laid; he had read it in their features and conduct, as if it had been written on a scroll before them. He met it in a manner unexpected; the crisis was brought on sooner than it was intended; and upon a principle similar to that, by which, when a line of battle is broken, the dismayed troops fly before order can be restored, the new and sudden turn given to these proceedings by the energy of Clark, confounded the Indians, and before the broken thread of their scheme of treachery could be re-united, they were panic struck. They had come prepared to brow-beat, to humble, and then to destroy; they looked for remonstrance and altercation; for the luxury of drawing the toils gradually around their victims; of beholding their agony and degradation, and bringing on the final catastrophe by an appointed signal when the scheme should be ripe. They had expected to see on our part great caution, a skillful playing off, and an unwillingness to take offence, and were gradually goaded into an alarm, irritation and submission. The cool contempt with which their first insult was thrown back into their teeth surprised them, and they were foiled by the self-possession of one man. They had no Tecumseh among them, no master spirit to change their plan so as to adopt a new exigency; and those braves, who in many a battle had shown themselves to be men of true valor, quailed before the moral superiority which assumed the vantage ground of a position they could not comprehend, and therefore feared to assail.

#### THE GLOBULAR FIGURE OF THE EARTH.

That the universe should be governed by general laws impressed on matter, is a providential arrangement, the consummate wisdom of which it requires no effort of reasoning to demonstrate; and that these laws should be fixed and undeviating, is a necessary consequence of their existence; for, were they to any great extent to yield to circumstances, they would cease to possess the character of principles on the results of which it would be possible either to reason or to act,—that is, they would cease to be general laws. Now, one of these general laws, as simple in its nature, as it is universal in its operations, and amazing in its effects, is the principle of gravitation, of which it has been beautifully said,—

"The very law which moulds a tear,  
And makes it trickle from its source,  
That law preserves the earth a sphere,  
And guides the planets in their course."—Rogers.

The globular figure of the earth, which is the result of this law, and which may easily be shown to possess many important advantages, presents this formidable difficulty,—that the rays of the sun, issuing in parallel lines from that luminary, must fall directly upon that part of the terrestrial ball which is immediately opposed to them, and obliquely, and therefore less powerfully, upon all other parts of its convex surface, till, at the extremes of the hemisphere, they would entirely cease to reach the earth. Were the earth to remain at rest, therefore, the consequence of its globular form would be, that the sun would shine intensely and constantly on a single spot, while one-half of its surface would be left in total darkness, and the other would be illuminated with greater or less force, according to its distance from the sun's direct rays. The disadvantages of such an arrangement need no comment. Now, one way in which this evil is abated, is by what is called the diurnal rotation of the earth. Our globe is made to whirl round as on