

all would be equal, he rejected them, as he was then more powerful and had more influence than they, and by entering the alliance he would be brought down to an equality with them. Determined, however, to carry out the Confederation scheme, the Mohawk and Oneida tendered the Onondaga the office of "Fire-keeper" in the new Council they would form. This, giving him the sole authority of opening or closing the Councils of the Five Nations, and a *veto* power upon all transactions of the Confederate Chiefs, induced the Onondaga to yield. The Cayugas and Senecas were subsequently added, and thus completed the scheme of Confederation of the Five Nations—a lasting evidence of their wisdom, and that they were entitled to the name of statesmen much more than many "pale-faces" of the present day. From the consummation of this scheme, the "new nationality" steadily though slowly increased in prosperity and power till about the time of the settlement of the English at Jamestown, when they had reached the zenith of their power and glory. Their hunting grounds extended from the great lakes upon the north to the Cumberland River and Cherokee country upon the south and east of the Mississippi.

They subdued nation after nation, till their name was known and their arms dreaded by nearly all Indian tribes east of the Rocky Mountains.

With what has occurred to us since we came in contact with the pale-faces, most of you are familiar, and I need say but a few words. At the time that New Amsterdam changed masters, was formed that alliance with the English which has been kept inviolate by the Mohawks unto this day. The Indians were engaged in all the wars that took place upon this continent for the possession of Canada, between the English and French, and to them England, most undoubtedly, owes her possessions in America. Their fidelity and the strength of their friendship will better appear when it is taken into consideration that they had not only no personal interest to serve, but also tempting offers were frequently made to them by the foes of England, to remain at least neutral. But their invariable reply was, "When my brother is glad we rejoice, when he weeps, we also weep."

At the close of the revolutionary war, the Mohawks, having throughout fought for their brother the King, though the American Government generously offered them the undisturbed possession of