

only for the purpose of announcing his intentions, and none said nay to his behests. His infallibility was never questioned."*

At an interview held by the Hon. O. H. Marshall with the venerable chief Seneca White at his house on the Cattaraugus Reservation, in 1864, he informed Mr. Marshall that Old Smoke was the most influential man among the Senecas in the Revolutionary war, and that *he opposed the Indians taking any part in the war*. According to the Senecas he was a large, portly man of commanding presence. That he was a man of great prominence at Kanadesaga as early as 1765, is evidenced from his position in the councils then held. His closing speech in the council at that time, in defence of Rev. Samuel Kirkland, whose life was in imminent danger in consequence of the death of his host, was full of convincing argument and was a master-piece of eloquence that bore down all opposition and elicited a general shout of applause "which made the council house ring." †

But it is in connection with the tragedy of Wyoming that I wish to call your attention to the Old King to-night; and here let me refresh your memories by giving a condensed and brief recital of the salient incidents of the affair as they have been accepted by the historian.

The valley of the Wyoming, in the early summer of 1778, presented a scene of peaceful and sylvan beauty. Slope and lowland, on either side of the Susquehanna, were dotted with clearings and nestling cabins, the abode of contented toil, frugality and virtue. No notes of strife or discord arose from the bosom of the happy valley. Only the plaint of some wild bird; the plowboy's careless whistle; the merry laugh and shouts of children at play; the ring of the woodman's axe; the muffled beating of some thresher's flail, and the rhythmic plash and murmur of the winding river, broke the Sabbath hush of the embowered settlement.

* Life and Times of Red Jacket by William I. Stone.

† Lothrop's Life of Kirkland, Chap. 3, Spark's Am. Biography, Vol. XXV.