

noted for its fertility. Game abounded and fruits of every description flourished in open air.

Gegosasa, as all the Erie queens were called, was protected by the sanctity of her office and character as keeper of the symbolic House of Peace; her wampum and Peace Pipe particularly so. The central point of her power was a place called Kieuka, on the Niagara ridge, not very far from the present village of Tuscarora, where she received in her Council Chamber, adjoining her Long House, messengers and ambassadors from the nations. Her authority extended to the foot of Lake Erie, where was stationed her strongest fortified town, called Kaquat-Ka (Buffalo).

For generations a "Mother" had ruled wisely over the Peace Councils of Kan-ai-der-a-da, but alas, for her sex and country, Yag-owan-eana was called "Gegosasa," and by her folly and frailty the crown of honor bestowed upon the women of America was lost by her betrayal of the sacred trust. At the head of Lake Ontario (Burlington Heights or Beach) an outrage occurred which she caused summarily to be punished, and which led to the fatal breach of trust and peace. The circumstances are these: Two Seneca warriors had sought the shelter of the Peace Lodge, had been received and had just begun to smoke the Pipe of Peace, when a deputation of Mississagas were announced. The new comers informed the Queen that the two Seneca warriors had just returned from assassinating the son of their principal chief (evidently the Queen's lover). In a frenzy of grief, in answer to the demand of the deputation, for the "Right of Blood," she delivered the two Senecas up to be tortured and executed. The news of this violation of the rights of office spread in every direction, war councils were held, the war cry reverberated through the land. Dreams were dreamt, visions were seen, while prophets and seers, in this crucial hour, foretold the downfall of Indian supremacy on the Continent. The cries and wailing of women filled the land, and now the glory and prominence given to the women of old Canada would be lost forever. Woman would henceforth be degraded, and in her humiliation walk with humbleness of spirit and downcast eyes.

The Neutral Confederacy was exterminated by the Iroquois, the avengers of the betrayed trust. This was the most savage