

The bearer of the calumet is made to sit on a fine skin, in the most honourable place. The warriors of both nations intermix, and give and receive marks of friendship. They serve up the meat, maize, gourds, potatoes, &c. After the repast, the proposals are related, which often consist in securing to them the privilege of hunting on their lands, eating or smoking together, and of exchanging with each other various articles.

These things being granted on both sides, they promise to live amicably, and the calumet is smoked by the whole assembly. The ambassadors return in few days to the village, and carry the news of their success.

The savages have different sorts of dances, which differ either by the ceremonies which precede or follow them, the actions they represent, or the objects for which they are designed. The principal ones are, the scalp-dance, of which I have before spoken, the calumet-dance, the sun-dance, and the ox-dance. Their gravity in these amusements bears such a decided contrast with their quick motions and burlesque appearance, that a foreigner is unable to discover with what sentiments they are actuated.

The calumet-dance only takes place when two or more nations, or parts of the same nation, are encamped near each other. The following is the mode of making the proposal.—One of their chiefs, attended by five or six warriors, goes to the chief of the nation with which they wish to dance, holding in his hands the calumet filled with the best tobacco he is able to procure. He lays it at his feet and invites him to smoke. If he agrees to the proposal, he takes up the calumet, lights it and smokes; then the warriors express their gratitude in the most extravagant manner. They send for the chief's children and caress them. If he rejects the proposal, he refuses the pipe, and desires them to defer the dance to another time.

The chief who has consented to receive the honour of the dance, assembles at his cabin all his relations, and entreats them to assist him to do honour to the dance. All are desirous to offer him whatever they possess, which commonly are horses and arms. The chief sends an old man to exhort the women and children to generosity, and assist them to render the feast worthy of his reputation.

The next day, the dancers holding in one hand a calumet, and the other a kettle-drum, leave their cabins, preceded by the chiefs and nobles, carrying also drums. The women follow, bearing the presents, which, when a circle is formed, they lay at the feet of their husbands or fathers.

The old men go and bring the chief and his children. He is seated in a place prepared for him, and his children are placed on