

Ohio. The Americans had for years been encroaching on the Indian lands, and from his youth Tecumseh endeavored to put a stop to their inroads. Before his twenty-fifth year he had several times faced the "long-knives," as he called the American soldiers, and had proved himself a valiant foe. In 1794 the Indians suffered a severe defeat, and were compelled to surrender a large portion of their territory. This made Tecumseh an even bitterer enemy to the Americans than he already was, and with a vigor and intelligence not often seen in a savage he endeavored to form a league among the Indians to compel the white men to surrender the land already seized, and to keep them from advancing farther west.

In 1804 his brother, Elskwatawa, announced himself a prophet, and warned his red brethren that if they wished to regain their old power they must lead the life of their fathers who inhabited this continent before the whites appeared among them; that they must cast away their woollen garments, and clothe themselves in skins; and that they must entirely give up the use of ardent spirits.

The fame of this prophet soon spread through the Indian villages and a vast concourse of savages came to dwell near one who was believed not only to be sent by the Great Spirit, but who, it was held, had the power of working miracles.

It is difficult to tell whether Tecumseh believed in his brother's supernatural powers, but at any rate he used the belief of others to unite all in his confederacy. The authorities, becoming alarmed, ordered Tecumseh and his brother to change their homes, and they removed to the Wabash, where the work of uniting the people went on.

A brief extract from a speech delivered by Tecumseh before a large assemblage of braves will give some idea of the character of the man and his aims.

"Brothers,—We are friends; we must assist each other to bear our burdens. The blood of many of our fathers and brothers has run like water on the ground, to satisfy the avarice of the white men. We, ourselves, are threatened with a great evil; nothing will pacify them but the destruction of all the red men.

"Brothers,—We must be united; we must smoke the same pipe; we must fight each others battles; and, more than all, we must love