

## Chapter I.

AT some period during the first quarter of the sixteenth century, a rupture took place between the Wyandotts and Senecas, while they were peaceably sojourning together (in separate villages), within the vicinity of what is now Montreal.

There are conflicting traditional accounts of what caused the two nations to become hostile toward each other. Some say that it commenced about a Seneca maiden and a Chief's son.

If women, in olden times, have caused war between civilized nations (or by being connected with an affair that brought about a warfare), why not among savages? "If such things can be done in a green tree, why not in the dry?"

Here is one story how the rupture between the Wyandotts and Senecas occurred.—

A Seneca maiden caused a Chief of her tribe to be slain for withholding his consent from his son taking her for wife. Other young men, afterwards, were rejected. Only on one condition would she give her hand to any one of them, and that was, by slaying the Chief who wronged her.

A young Wyandott warrior hearing of this, visited the maiden; he complied with her condition, and he became her avenger and husband.

The whole Seneca village were enraged—the men flew to arms, to avenge the assassination of their Chief, by destroying the Wyandotts.