

Old King, like King Hendrick,—(who, it is worthy of remark, bore among the Mohawks the same title of Sayenqueraghta),—was endowed with the innate, imperial attributes to which I have alluded. The servants of the British crown in North America apparently encouraged this assumption of royalty on the part of the Old King. His family had for generations, and while the majority of his nation were inclined to yield to the blandishments of the rival French monarchy, remained firm in attachment to the British sovereign. In recognition of their loyal faith the good Queen Anne bestowed upon the Sayenqueraghta of her reign, an ancestor of Old King, a coronet, the only instance, it is believed, in the history of the aborigines of America. Kings have been crowned and dynasties established with less color of right than that possessed by King Sayenqueraghta. The incident gathers significance when we recall the royal jealousy evoked by the marriage of Rolf, an English subject, with the Princess Pocahontas in the days of King James the First.

The red men had no biographers or annalists, and the materials for a biography of the Old King are extremely scanty. The white man's records, however, afford us occasional glimpses of the plumed warrior in his varied career,—now the impassioned orator haranguing a dignified group of blanketed sachems; now with grim visage dealing death blows in the thick of battle; now in friendly conference with men of rank in military and civil life; anon, stooping to succor distressed captives like the Gilbert family, or welcoming as a son to his cabin the weary and famished missionary, Kirkland, and then vanishing mysteriously from view as if to justify his quaint appellation, The-disappearing-mist.

Bancroft, speaking of the Senecas at Wyoming, says: "Their King, Sayenqueraghta, was both in war and in council the foremost man in all the "six nations."*

Col. Stone remarks, "Old Smoke was the most powerful, as he was deemed the wisest sachem of his time. He was the principal sachem, or civil chief of the nation, and his word was law. When he thought proper to convene a council it was

* Bancroft's History U. S. Vol. V, p. 279.