

With regard to Marriage, they tolerate Polygamy universally; but this Liberty, however, is rarely made use of by any \*, except the *Sagamo*; that is the Title given to their Chieftains. This Dignity is, strictly speaking, elective, but the Choice generally falls upon him who is at the Head of the most numerous Family.

Every Town has its proper *Sagamo* independent of the rest, who is Guardian of all the Youth in the Town under his Jurisdiction. These he keeps strictly under his Authority and Command till they are married. All the Fruits of their Labour belong to him; and even after they are married, and have several Children, they pay him a Kind of *Tribute*, which is exacted with the utmost Rigour.

Every *Sagamo* decides all the Differences and Disputes that at any time arise either between Families or single Persons, within his Township; and if the Parties cannot otherwise be brought to an Accommodation, Justice is immediately executed by him, according to the *Lex Talionis*, which is observed in the strictest Sense of the Letter. This is one Instance of the Authority of the *Sagamo* considered separately. But in all Matters wherein the whole Tribe is concerned, nothing is deter-

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mined

\* This Reserve is not so much owing to their Chastity as to their Laziness, which indisposes them to provide a Maintenance for, or to make Presents to, more than one Woman.