

in the struggle of which should be the greatest. Every man's hand was raised against that of his brother, when the great Manito, the Creator of the Nations, summoned from the red heights of the big lake his children, to take council with him. From the north, south, east and west they came. With infinite pity and love He looked upon the assembled tribes gathered at His feet, glaring defiance and hatred one at the other. Stretching His right hand over them to subdue the sea of anger, wrath and stubbornness surging over the multitude, the Great Spirit instituted with His red children the ceremonial of the Pipe of Peace.— Each tribe was commanded to take of the red clay before them and mould a Pipe of Peace, which they were to smoke together as a pledge to live in unity and peace as brethren of one family.

To the Eries, the head of the Neutral Confederacy, which geographically lay intermediate among the nations, was given the "divine right" of calling a Peace Council in time of war, thus becoming the arbitrators of all differences between the many nations and confederacies of North America.

A woman was to be recognized by all the nations as the head of the Neuter Confederacy, under the title of "Mother of Nations," and the custodian of the National Pipe of Peace. She had a right of calling a Peace Council in time of war; and to her lodge were carried quarrels and feuds to be there amicably discussed, the differences adjusted and the Pipe of Peace smoked together—metaphorically speaking, the litigants "burying the hatchet."

Charlevoix informs us that the Neuter Confederacy was exterminated in 1655. Other authorities place the event in 1633. The territory occupied by them was the valley of the Niagara River. Their limits extended from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, with an indefinite breadth towards the Genesee River. On the north-east they stretched up the shores of Lake Ontario. They numbered twelve thousand souls and had a standing army of four thousand warriors. The present cities of Detroit and Buffalo were the two military strongholds and residences of the warriors of the Neutral Confederacy. They had twenty-eight villages and twelve large forts, or towns, which were similar to the cities of refuge of the children of Israel. The peninsula was