

peace, they send by the ambassador a leathern bag filled with tobacco, and tied with a cord, on which are made as many knots as there are villages in the nation with whom they wish to treat. He enters in the night as secretly as possible the cabin of the chief, to whom he explains the motives of his embassy, and presents the bag of tobacco. The next morning the chief convokes a meeting of the old men, warriors, and others of distinction, and relates to them the message, gives his opinion, and presents the bag. If the assembly think proper to accept of it, the bag is presented to some one of the warriors, who is known to bear the most violent resentment against the nation that has made the proposals; he unties it, takes out some tobacco, and fills his pipe. After this ceremony, the chief informs the ambassador that they may bring the calumet, and that they will be kindly received; if the terms are not acceded to, the bag is returned untouched. When peace is agreed on, one of the nations deputed a chief, who is accompanied by, at least, twenty-five warriors. Previous to their departure, all the chiefs and people of distinction assemble at the Lodge of Old Men, and the calumet is taken from the mat in which it is wrapped, and carried by one of the bravest, with marks of extraordinary respect. The deputies are then intrusted what to do. During which time a large kettie of meat is placed on the fire, and the calumet is filled with tobacco, which must only be smoked by the nation with whom they are treating. The tube of the calumet is painted blue, the symbol of a serene sky. When the meat is cooked, a servant * divides it into pieces, and presents it to the warriors and others in the cabin. Before any one begins to eat, the most distinguished person present cuts three pieces, and, taking them in his hands, entreats for success to the embassy, and then casts them into the flames. At the close of the feast they all smoke: and the person who is to be the bearer of the precious object receives it, standing, from the hands of the chief.

When they have arrived within sight of the village, they announce by signals their approach, and remain until a warrior comes to invite them. They then advance a little, and are met by the nobles, bearing or leading the presents, which generally consist of horses or arms. The ambassador having made them smoke, the children offer the presents; after which the chief invites them to enter.

* Men apparelled like women, and are not only made to perform all the low drudgery to which the savage women are condemned, but are even employed to gratify certain unnatural propensities.

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