

dots in early life,* made the following statement on this subject. He said that the Wyandots waged almost a constant war with the six nations for about seventy years, but at length the English induced them to make peace. This was displeasing to the majority of the nation, and was a cause of their dividing into parties, and dispersing to different places. Those who remained having become so dissipated by their long wars, were wont to rob and murder each other. To put an end to this barbarous practice, a council of the nation was called, which passed a law, that whoever should rob and kill his brother should be put to death in the following manner. When the culprit was found guilty by a council of the chiefs of the nation, the dead body should be placed on a piece of bark supported by four forked sticks, and in such a position that the flow of putrid matter should concentrate; so that the murderer, being secured beneath it with his mouth open, should be constrained to receive and swallow the drops until he died.

In process of time a great treaty was made, by which the country was apportioned among the various nations, and by which means each nation knew their proper inheritance. This, by preventing aggressions, in some degree, put a stop to those great and general wars which were formerly so destructive. Still, however, smaller disputes often occurred, and, on a smaller scale, wars were frequently carried on. This is a consideration which will, in addition to the other causes mentioned, amply account for the decrease of the Indians.

* See Dr. Bangs' History of Methodist Missions, p 87.