

Castle or Kanadesaga. It was surrounded by a timbered palisade and earthen works, constructed under the supervision of that astute and vigilant servant of the crown, Sir William Johnson. Outlying this forest fastness were thriving orchards of apples and peach, and broad fields of golden maize. Kanadesaga was peopled, principally, by a clan of Senecas whose totem was the turtle, a symbol, in the simple heraldry of the Iroquois, of ancient and illustrious origin. The principal and hereditary chieftain who swayed this rude community, and whose influence was, in truth, potential in the councils of the great confederacy, was known to his people as *Gui-eng-wa-toh*, and in the dialect of the people who lived nearer the sea, *Sayenqueraghta*, or *Sakayengwaraton*, which signified the "Disappearing Smoke or Mist."* It was this chieftain's prerogative to kindle and to extinguish the council fire of his nation, and this idea was imbedded in the rocky syllables of his Indian name. Among the English he was called indifferently, *Old King*, *King of Kanadesaga*, the *King of the Senecas* and *Old Smoke*; again allusion being made to his official prerogative. The early pioneers and explorers knew little and cared less about the unwritten constitutions of their barbaric neighbors. When, in the course of their dealings with the natives, they met a sachem, who was the spokesman and apparently the venerated head and leader of his people, they bestowed upon him a royal title, as in the instances of *King Powhattan*, *King Philip*, *King Hendrick* and others. In the same spirit of extravagant idealization when they observed an Indian town fortified by encircling palisades and defensive moats, they dignified it with the title of castle, as for example *Oneida Castle*, *Onondaga Castle*, upper and lower *Mohawk Castles*, the *Seneca* or *Old Castle*, etc. The title of *King* was not applicable to any Iroquois ruler or official. The Iroquois recognized no Kingship save that which naturally inheres in the born leaders of men,—men whose superior understanding, imperious will and meritorious achievements inexorably commanded popular homage and obedience. The government of the confederate Iroquois was strangely composite,—an oligarchy wedded to a pure democracy. The

*Literally,—The-Smoke-has-Disappeared.