

place ; it is right you should have one, as you came a great distance from home, and we don't wish to detain you. But we will first look back a little, and tell you what our forefathers have told us, and what we have heard from the white people. Brother, listen to what we have to say : There was a time when our forefathers owned this great island, their seat extended from the rising to the setting sun ; the Great Spirit had made it for the use of the Indians. He had created the deer, the buffalo, and the other animals, for food. He made the bear and the beaver ; their skins served us for clothing ; He had scattered them over the country, and taught us to take them ; He caused the earth to produce corn for bread ; all this He had done for His red children, because he loved them. If we had some disputes about hunting grounds, they were generally settled without the shedding of much blood. But an evil day came upon us, your forefathers crossed the great waters, and landed on this island. Their numbers were small. They found friends and not enemies ; they told us they fled from their own country for fear of wicked men, and had come here to enjoy their religion. They asked for a small seat ; we took pity on them, granted their request, and they sat down among us ; we gave them corn and meat, they gave us poison (alluding, as is supposed, to ardent spirits) in return. The white people had now found our country, tidings were carried back, and more came among us ; we took them to be friends, they called us brothers ; we believed them, and gave them a large seat. At length their numbers greatly increased ; they wanted more land, they wanted our country. Our eyes were opened, our minds became uneasy, wars took place, Indians were hired to fight against Indians, and many of our people were destroyed. They also brought strong liquors among us ; it was strong and powerful, and has slain thousands.

Brothers, our seats were once large,

and yours were small, you have now become a great people, and we have scarcely a place left to spread our blankets ; you have got our country, but are not satisfied ; you want to force your religion upon us. Brothers, continue to listen, you say you are sent to instruct us how to worship the Great Spirit agreeable to his mind, and if we do not take hold of the religion which you teach, we shall be unhappy hereafter. You say that you are right, and we are lost ; how do you know this to be true ? We understand that your religion is written in a book ; if it was intended for us, as well as you, why has not the Great Spirit given it to us, and not only to us, but why did he not give to our forefathers the knowledge of that book, with the means of understanding it rightly ? We only know what you tell us about it, and how shall we know when to believe, being so often deceived by the white people ?

Brother, you say there is but one way to worship and serve the Great Spirit. If there is but one religion, why do you white people differ so much about it ? Why not all agree, as you all can read the book ?

Brother, we do not understand these things ; we are told that your religion was given to your forefathers, and has been handed down from father to son. We also have a religion which was given to our forefathers, and has been handed down to us—their children : we worship in that way ; it teaches us to be thankful for all the favors we receive, to love each other, and be united ; we never quarrel about religion.

Brother, the Great Spirit has made us all, but he has made difference between his white and red children. He has given us different complexions and different customs. To you, He has given the arts, to these he has not opened our eyes ; we know these things to be true. Since He has made so great a difference between us in other things, why may we not conclude