

of the Sachems go about to receive this tribute, which is paid in wampum, the current money among the Indians. Wampum is of two kinds, white and purple: the white is worked out of the inside of the great shells into the form of a bead, and perforated, to string on leather; the purple is taken out of the inside of the muscle shell; they are woven as broad as one's hand, and about two feet long; these they call belts, and give and receive them at their treaties as the seals of friendship; for lesser matters a single string is given. Every bead is of known value, and a belt of a less number is made to equal one of a greater, by fastening so many as is wanting to the belt by a string.

It is seldom for the sake of tribute that the Indians make war, but from their notions of glory, which they have strongly imprinted on their minds. The Five Nations, in their love of liberty, and their country; in their bravery in battle, and their constancy in enduring torments, equal the fortitude of the most celebrated Romans.

*Of their Conventions, Method of making War, and Treatment of Prisoners.*

Affairs of importance which concern all the Five Nations are transacted in a general meeting of the Sachems, which is held near the centre of their country: but when they treat with the British, the meeting has been commonly held at Albany. They strictly follow the maxim formerly used by the Romans to increase their strength, that is, they encourage the people of other nations to incorporate with them; and when they have subdued any people, after having satiated their revenge by a few examples, they adopt the rest of their captives as subjects and friends, esteeming and treating them in every respect as themselves.

When any of the young men of these nations have a

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