

A party of the superstitious Wyandotts belonging to the Prairie Turtle Clan,* met one day, and encamped at the haunted spring, fully determined to know its hidden mystery.

These devoted seekers after a strange god, like the sons of Belial in ancient days, dedicated their *heathen altar* to this mysterious spirit, and offered burnt offerings, and signified their sincere devotion, by casting valuable articles into the spring, which consisted of various kinds of ornamented silver works, such as are worn by Indians, and which were obtained from the French at that period. They also cast wampum belts, beads, and other articles into the pool, as sacrifice offerings to the strange god.

A leader, named Ce-zhaw-yen-hau was chosen among them, to call up the spirit or wizard,† in whatever shape it might be, and whilst he stood on the bogs by the spring, chanting a song made by one of their party for the occasion, his friends at the *altar* offered burnt offerings of tobacco, and medicinal substance of some kind to the strange god, at the same time chanting their devotional song.

The leader stood as if transfixed, where he posted himself, holding in one hand his bow, and with the other a bunch of arrows,‡ and with a firm mind, invoked the spirit beneath him. "Come forth!" he exclaimed, "you wizard

*This clan or tribe, like some of the wayward and refractory tribes of Israel of old, were always inclined to be rebellious against the Good Spirit, and who were led by their evil thoughts and superstitious notions, to seek after strange gods. The very substance they obtained from the evil spirit (as will be described) in the sulphureous spring, which they used in their witchcraft and evil practice on their fellow beings, seemed to have consumed themselves. Not one of this clan can now be found living

†The term wizard, among Indians, was applied to any person known to be a sorcerer, and who was sometimes accused of taking the life of his fellow beings, to gratify his revengeful feeling. *Hoo-ke* is the Wyandott name given to a wizard.

‡His arrows were of a species of the red willow, cut as they grew, to the common size of an arrow, and the sharpened end hardened with hot embers.