

## THE GREAT FIRE COUNCIL

**A** treaty entered into by this Council held about the beginning of this century is recorded in a great wampum belt. The following is the reading of Sopiela Selma — the Indian rendering of Xavier Solomon — Potouswin, keeper of the records, of the Passamaquoddy tribe, of this wampum which is in his keeping at the village of Pleasant Point. The words and forms of expression, as also the spelling of proper names, are those of the translator, another Passamaquoddy named Louis Michel. Sopiela cannot speak English.

“ This treaty made between the Six and Seven Nations of Indians and the Abenakies, the People of the Northern Lights.

Before the treaty of peace, these Indians, Abenakies and Six Nations, are bitter enemies. They fight every time they meet. Many cruel battles are fought and many prisoners tortured.

When they fought their last battle, some of the wise men of both parties viewed the battle field, and saw the number of killed and wounded ; and said among themselves. “ This work of cruelties must be stopped at once, and something must be done.” So they notify the head chiefs of the tribes, and the great chief of the Iroquois calls for a general meeting.

This meeting took place somewhere near what is now known as the St. Lawrence river. Every tribe above mentioned send their smartest and wisest men to attend the general Indian conference. When they