

Models for a sculptured Apollo, the perfection of the human form, accompanied by a princely mien, and an unstudied grace of movement may have frequently been seen among the lithe and supple braves grouped around gallant King Hendrick, and the sight of whom kindled the imagination of Sir Joshua Reynolds; but the nature of these picturesque youth rarely revealed that union of gentleness, love and valor which are the essential ingredients of chivalry. Heroes they were according to their own rude standard suggested by the untamed animals which formed the emblazonry of their shields; exceptions, however, were not wanting, as in the case of *Hiawatha, of a lofty magnanimity and an all-embracing benevolence.

Cruel, ruthless and vengeful as we must admit they were, when war inflamed their passions, we cannot deny the Iroquois warriors possession of such attributes as loyalty, chastity, valor, gratitude, hospitality, acumen, an inspiring eloquence and an indomitable spirit of independence. They jealously emphasized the distinction between allies and vassals in their relations to the Dyo-hence-caw,† or People-of-the-Morning, throughout the period of a long and faithful service in which their blood was shed like water.

There have arisen among this people, within the historic period, many remarkable characters; perhaps none more so than the personage I am about to introduce to your notice.

Early in the 18th century, and before the hearts of the American colonists were thrilled by the first monitory rumble of that great upheaval, which we denominate the American revolution, there lay in the fruitful and romantic region bordering the foot of Lake Seneca, and within sight of its sparkling, unsullied waters, the most considerable village of the Senecas. This village was known to the whites as Old

* Hiawatha was the founder of the League of the Iroquois—a veritable “law-giver of the stone age,” and not a mythological creation; although ^{superstition} ~~reputation~~ has invested him with supernatural attributes. By birth he was an Onondaga, and by adoption a Mohawk. In the Mohawk dialect the name is pronounced A-yohn-wah-t-ha; in the Onondaga, Hay-en-wat-ha, and in the Seneca, Hay-ya-wan-tah.

† The Seneca name for the English.