

The Feast of the Dead

"In the Huron Nation territory, south of the Georgian Bay, both single and communal graves are met with. The former were probably made preparatory to the great Feast of the Dead, when the bones would be removed to a large pit dug on an eminence, and into which were placed sometimes as many as a thousand skeletons—the remains of those who had died during the previous ten or twelve years. Such ossuaries or bone-pits have been found at intervals as far south as the County of Wentworth."—*Notes on Primitive Man in Ontario, by David Boyle.*

I.

Lo, twice five years have passed, and o'er the land,
Through lodge and village
Goes forth a summons that all understand—
"Leave hunt and tillage ;
Leave bow and arrows ; leave your tomahawks,
And come, slow marching ;
Leave ye your pipes ; leave your sententious talks ;
Through trees o'er-arching