

jectured to be in the language of the Delaware Indians, and its meaning was held to be "This is my right; I will maintain it." It appears that an uncertainty as to its source and meaning, and even as to its proper orthography, existed rather less than twenty years after the gun had been cast; for the Pennsylvania Historical Society possesses a curious "pamphlet in verse" on the French war, published in 1755 by an author bearing the rather gruesome name of Nicholas Scull, who had taken for the "second title" of his poem the motto "*Kawanio che keeteru.*" Of this he says, "The words I have chosen at the head of my title page, I am told by a gentleman skilled in the Indian languages, is very expressive of a HERO relying on God to bless his endeavors in protecting what He has put under his care." To form some idea of its signification," he added, "you may imagine a man with his wife and children about him, and, with an air of resolution, calling out to his enemy, "All these God has given me, and I will defend them."

This learning, it would seem, passed muster in 1755; but in 1888 the skepticism of science had invaded even the quiet State in Schuylkill. The authority of Mr. Scull's anonymous "gentleman skilled in Indian languages," with the affecting and sublime picture presented by his words, did not satisfy them. They had recourse to an authority about whose skill in Indian lore there could be no question. Dr. Brinton, Professor of American Archaeology and Linguistics in the University of Pennsylvania, on being applied to, at once informed the committee that the inscription was not in the Lenape or Delaware language, and advised that it should be submitted to a student who had facilities for investigating the Iroquois tongue. When, in compliance with this recommendation of my distinguished friend, the inscription was sent to me, it was at once apparent that the sentence was in the Iroquois language and that its meaning had been widely misconceived. Mr. Scull's pious and patriotic hero vanished, and in his place appeared a lordly war-chief. The sentence "*Kawanio che keeteru,*" or, as the words would now be more accurately written in the modern missionary orthography, "*Kewennio tsi kiteron,*" means simply, "I am master wherever I am." This must be admitted to be a by no means ill-invented Indian motto for a "big gun," however far it might be from representing the sentiments of the worthy contributors for whom the gun was cast.

The reason why the "Colony in Schuylkill" preferred to get