

and how then, Hiawatha, his life's work accomplished, paddled away again as mysteriously as he had come, and he and the white canoe were seen no more forever.

As to his historic existence and the main facts of his life work, Mr. Hale had not a doubt. The federal compact which still unites the Six Nations is, according to this distinguished writer, the natural development with but slight changes of the organization effected by this great Iroquois statesman four hundred and fifty years ago.

OHSWEKEN.

Our place of meeting is known by the Iroquois name of Ohsweken. An inquiry into its etymology ought to be of interest. It would appear to be connected with "Swege" the name by which the Grand River was known in early times, and even as lately as a century ago, with "Ochswееge," one of the early native names for Lake Erie, and with Oswego and Oswegatchie. A branch of the Chippewa River is known by the name of Oswego. Other names of the Grand River given in old maps are "Tina-Toua," "Urse," "Turcot," "Rapide," and in the later English maps "Ouse." In one of Bellin's maps of 1755 it is called "L'Urse ou Grande Rivière." In 1795, according to the Duc de la Rochefoucauld Liancourt, it was called the "Miami," as well as the Grand River. I am informed* that the derivation is from *Ouse*, "river," *we* (pronounced as in weigh), *ken*, "dwellers there." The name, if this explanation is correct, would mean "Dwellers there by the Ouse or River." It is also said that the name is applicable to the entire Reserve. Ohsweken is, perhaps, the original Iroquois name of the river itself, or of those who dwelt upon its banks. The English appellation, Ouse, may be a mere corruption of the Iroquois name for the river, as shown in the French form "Urse."† "Tina-Toua," or "Tina-oua-toua," is said to have the same meaning as "Attiwendaronk," the name given to the Neutrals by the Hurons, signifying "People of slightly different speech."

* NOTE.—My informant as to etymology of Ohsweken and Tina-Toua is Mr. J. O. Brant-Sero, of Hamilton, Ont., a Mohawk. Dean Harris, in his interesting remarks at the meeting, mentioned the circumstance that Joseph Brant's residence in New York State was called Ohsweken.

† The same root may, perhaps, occur in Ohio, which means "Beautiful River," or according to Mr. Hale, more anciently, "Great River," the form for "river" being given by him as "Ohia." Perhaps, however, the name of the English Ouse may have been given to the Grand River independently of the Indian appellation.