

an inch in diameter and one-eighth to seven-sixteenths of an inch in length.

Perhaps the most important use of wampum was in the symbolic record belt and strings which were the stamps of authority in every inter-tribal transaction. The famous belt used in the treaty between William Penn and the Indians is now in the rooms of the Penn Historical Society. It was given to its first white owner as a solemn token that they would keep their pledge. Such belts had the beads arranged in symbolic figures more or less suggestive of the transaction thus ratified. The Penn belt shows in the center two figures clasping hands; one wears a hat the other does not. This shows one was a white man, the other an Indian. Others of interest are the Cherokee belts attesting peace made with the Iroquois, before the Revolutionary war and the Iroquois belts which are preserved in the archives of New York State at Albany.

Smaller belts for chiefs were woven with a diamond-shaped figure in the center worked in white beads. These were called peace belts. The women also made themselves bracelets and neck chains. The old myths of years ago are repeated in Indian homes, and many of the stories, like those told in the poem of Hiawatha, are familiar to little children in Western teepees. Hiawatha the Wise we know, was an Iroquois hero and the legend of his travels and how he was the first to make wampum is charming. We find Hiawatha starting on his journey to the arrow-maker—

"From the lodge went Hiawatha,
Dressed for travel armed for hunting,
Dressed in deerskin shirt and leggins
Richly wrought with quills and wampum."

It was probably due to the genius of Hiawatha that we have the invention of the wampum belt as his name implies. Hay-un-watha, maker of beits.

The Aztecs or Mexican Indians had a serpent god. The Luni Lan-nape or Delaware Indians had stick records to tell that the country of the Great Serpent was conquered little by little. Mounds are themselves the unsolved record of a great people. No Indian legends or histories have ever explained the meaning of those heaps of earth, but the wampum belt tells its story by the pictures upon it. There is a string of wampum, hand wrought of pure white beads, which is treasured and possesses an additional interest because it was given as a pledge of love and fidelity and once belonged to the famous Chief Logan. About twenty years ago, a little English maiden wandered away from camp and was lost on the shores of Lake Champlain. An Indian boy was sent in search of her and, when he found her, he threw a string of wampum over her head and said:

"Like my great Chief Logan, whose descendant I am, I capture you with my Ote-Ko-a."