

teachings of Christianity, but it still has many devout adherents.

This code is known amongst the Iroquois as Gai-wi-wo, and it is proclaimed for the benefit of the people twice in the year, at the meeting of the Six Nations in September and at the midwinter thanksgiving. There are six preachers or "holders" who expound this teaching to the tribes, during the recital of which the preacher stands at the fireplace of the council house which serves as the altar, and his exposition of the code continues during three days. It is a time of "revival" among the so-called pagan Indians, and often brings the Iroquois from the Canadian reservations over to join in the general dissemination of the precepts of the prophet.

Handsome Lake was born in 1735 on the Genesee river, near the present town of Avon, Livingston county, and is buried on the Onondaga reservation where a monument stands to his memory. Though a sachem of the Seneca nation, his inspirations came to him only after he had wasted his prime of life. His teachings are somewhat enterwoven with natural superstitions, and in this, too, his code is not unlike that of other historic religions, but there is so much of excellence in his teachings that their vitality is still evinced by the earnest effort on the part of his followers to carry out his precepts. He made no definite claim, he did not pose as infallible or even as truly virtuous, and Chief Cornplanter, now one of the expositors or "holders" of the code, says of him, "We do not worship him; we worship one great Creator; we honor and revere our prophet and leader; we revere the four messengers who watch over us, but the creator alone do we worship."

The Six Nations' centennial of the death of Handsome Lake took place on the Onondaga reservation during the first week of November, last year. Hundreds of visiting Indians and their white friends took part in the ceremonies of condolence.

A LEAGUE OF PEACE

The Iroquois Confederacy was a league of peace. The reader into the history of our colonial struggles, stained too often with the gory recitals of Iroquois invasions, will hardly think of the Six Nations as confederated for purposes of peace. But they were, and more than that, this Iroquois Confederacy was a League to Enforce Peace. The tribes were bound by their most sacred oaths, confirmed in council by their most revered and solemn ceremonies and symbols, to keep peace among themselves and to add to their number other tribes that would join them in this purpose. The symbol of this confederacy was the "evergrowing tree," shown on their great wampum now in the State