

### When Scalps Were in Demand

The scalping of enemies seems to have been a practice rather uncommon in America up to the advent of the European. According to a statement by Geo. Friederici, in the forthcoming Annual of the Smithsonian Institution, it was the whites who really popularized this engaging pursuit. Previously, he asserts, all of the Indians on this continent had been head-hunters.

The white man not only offered prizes of money for scalps, establishing a regular market for them, but furnished knives suitable for the purpose—cutting instruments, that is to say, vastly more efficient than the knives of shell, of stone and of fish-tooth which had been up to that time the best obtainable by the untutored aborigines. The scalping knife, shaped usually like a butcher knife, soon became a familiar merchandise commonly sold by traders.

As far back as 1637 the Puritans of New England (scalping being as yet unknown in that part of the country) offered bounties for the heads of hostile Indians, large numbers of which were brought in and duly paid for. Forty years later the colony of Connecticut advertised for both heads and scalps, and, in July, 1675, the "heroine," Hannah Dustin, received \$250 and "many expressions of thanks" for eight scalps which she had taken with her own hands, two of them being those of women and six of children.

Subsequently, when, in the last decade of the seventeenth century, the English fought the French, both sides sought and paid for each others' scalps. In 1755 General Braddock guaranteed his soldiers and Indians \$25 for every trophy of the kind taken from the enemy; and nine years later Governor Penn, for the

State of Pennsylvania, offered \$134 for every scalp of an Indian warrior, and \$50 for every scalp of a slain squaw.

During the Revolution scalping was freely practiced on both sides, the English paying from \$8 to \$15 apiece for them as a rule. But prices sometimes ran considerably higher, and at one time the Legislature of South Carolina promised \$370 for every scalp of the fighting men of the enemy. Such methods of warfare have long been abandoned by civilized countries, yet in the middle of the nineteenth century the Legislature of the North Mexican States offered \$100 for every scalp of a male Apache, \$50 for that of a female, and \$25 for that of every Indian child.

This state of affairs continued, indeed, well into the eighties, the bounties for scalps raised as high as \$500 for those of hostile warriors. Such prices naturally attracted the attention of adventurers, who formed themselves into scalp-hunting bands, and, as far back as 1845, the leader of one of these marauding parties whose name was Kirker, achieved such success, through the surprise of an Indian camp and the massacre of all ages and sexes, that the treasuries of Sonora and Chihuahua were able to pay him only a part of the scalp money due him.—Ex.

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Miss Lalor visited her many friends at Sherman over Sunday. It seemed good to have her cheery presence again.—Sherman Bulletin.

We recently visited the Indians of Smoky Valley to investigate the practicability of a day school in that valley, and chanced to arrive there about the time of their annual social dance, for which we waited in order to see them all conveniently.—New Indian.