

ANCIENT SOCIETY

OR

**RESEARCHES IN THE LINES OF HUMAN PROGRESS
FROM SAVAGERY THROUGH BARBARISM
TO CIVILIZATION**

BY

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Nascitur enim subter rostris.

HORACE.



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I. *Hodensaunian Tribes.*

1. Iroquois. The gentes of the Iroquois have been considered.¹

2. Wyandotes. This tribe, the remains of the ancient Hurons, is composed of eight gentes, as follows:

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|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Wolf. | 2. Bear. | 3. Beaver. | 4. Turtle. |
| 5. Deer. | 6. Snake. | 7. Porcupine. | 8. Hawk. ² |

Descent is in the female line, with marriage in the gens prohibited. The office of sachem, or civil chief, is hereditary in the gens, but elective among its members. They have seven sachems and seven war-chiefs, the Hawk gens being now extinct. The office of sachem passes from brother to brother, or from uncle to nephew; but that of war-chief was bestowed in reward of merit, and was not hereditary. Property was hereditary in the gens, consequently children took nothing from their father; but they inherited their mother's effects. Where the rule is stated hereafter it will be understood that unmarried as well as married persons are included. Each gens had power to depose as well as elect its chiefs. The Wyandotes have been separated from the Iroquois at least four hundred years; but they still have five gentes in common, although their names have either changed beyond identification, or new names have been substituted by one or the other.

The Eries, Neutral Nation, Nottoways, Tutelos,³ and Susquehannocks⁴ now extinct or absorbed in other tribes, belong to the same lineage. Presumptively they were organized in gentes, but the evidence of the fact is lost.

¹ 1. Wolf, Tor-yoh'-ne.

2. Bear, Ne-e-ar-guy'-ee.

3. Beaver, Non-gar-ne'-e-ar-goh.

4. Turtle, Gā-ne-e-ar-teh-go'-wā.

5. Deer, Nā-o'-geh.

6. Snipe, Doo-ee-se-doo-we'.

7. Heron, Jo-ās'-seh.

8. Hawk, Os-sweh-gā-dā-gā'-ah.

² 1. Ah-na-rese'-kwā, Bone Gnawers.

2. Ah-nu-yeh', Tree Liver.

3. Tso-tā'-ee, Shy Animal.

4. Ge-ah'-wish, Fine Land.

5. Os-ken'-o-toh, Roaming.

6. Sine-gain'-see, Creeping.

7. Ya-ra-hats'-see, Tall Tree.

8. Dā-soak', Flying.

³ Mr. Horatio Hale has recently proved the connection of the Tutelos with the Iroquois.

⁴ Mr. Francis Parkman, author of the brilliant series of works on the colonization of America, was the first to establish the affiliation of the Susquehannocks with the Iroquois.