

LEGEND OF THE GREAT SACHEM.

Many years ago--long before the white man had invaded their domain--a great and noble tribe of Indians roamed these plains under the leadership of their wise and courageous chief, The Great Sachem Onandaiga. Long had they flourished under his firm but kindly rule. Nevertheless, as he grew old, he found that his tribesmen were becoming slovenly. Formerly his braves had led all other neighboring tribes in their courage on the war-path, in the cunning with which they hunted and trapped the wild game of the fields and forests, and in the promptness with which they assumed the offices of responsibility which he assigned to them to aid him in the government of the tribe. But now, having become prosperous under his guidance, they became lazy and thought solely of themselves and their own amusement. Their talents for hunting and fishing were expended only for their own advantage, and the welfare of the tribe as a whole was largely forgotten.

At the sight of this change in his warriors, the old chief's heart was heavy. Nevertheless, he determined that his tribe should not be totally ruined without his having made an effort to prevent it.

One night, in the Spring of the year, he called to his tepee, not the old and experienced warriors, but those young braves whose conduct in war and in peace indicated that they would some day be the leaders of his tribe. Here he related to them the glories which ^{the} tribe had known in the past

and pointed out the sad state of dissolution and decay into which it had now fallen. He called upon them for the period of one year to set an example for all other members of the tribe in seriousness of purpose and in unselfish leadership which would be an inspiration to all their fellows. They responded to a man, and long before the year had passed, the old Sachem, Onandaiga, noted an improvement throughout his tribe. So impressed was he by the effect which the example of these young men had made upon young and old alike, that he decided in the following year to again call to his tepee those who were outstanding among his young braves. Thus he continued for many years and the tribe regained its former position of prestige and honor among all who called these plains their home.

Finally, Onandaiga the Sachem, became very old, but just before he went to the Happy Hunting Grounds, he called before him the last group of young braves he was to ever select. From them he extracted a solemn oath to ever remain steadfast to the principles which they had vowed to support during their year as members of his Council. He further instructed them that henceforth they must select their own successors, but choosing them as one man and not as a group of individuals. To this they also swore and from that day to this, this great tradition has continued.

We still respect the memory of that great chief-- that great Sachem who founded our Council--by wearing as our emblem the bronze image of his face. Our shield bears, in that space where his face otherwise would appear, the names of those braves who now represent him, and who, in their every act, move as one chief of men--as one great Sachem-- let his memory never be desecrated!

SECOND OATH

I have heard the words of the great Sachem--of Onondaiga--and of the living Sagamore. Those council fires are now sacred. I swear that they shall ever remain so.

LECTURE.

Young men of Sachem, we have heard the legend of the Great Onondaiga and those past traditions which are the basis of our council. Your past records have merited election to the band of Sachem. But however bright the past and however meritorious your past records, your eyes must henceforth turn more and more to the future and its obligations. Sachem has selected you upon your past records to a certain extent, but far more than that it has chosen you for what you promise to do in the two years remaining.

You have been singled out from among your fellows largely because of the potential qualities of leadership and conscientious worth which you possess. In many respects,

you are only upon the threshold of your careers as exemplary leaders and industrious laborers among your fellows. You are but beginning to scale those heights which are the reward of faithful work, selfless cooperation, and zealous leadership.

True, you are only entering upon your careers as leaders, but already you are marked men whose examples, good or bad, will be respected and followed--selected men whose work and deeds will be closely watched and evaluated on every hand. Since you will occupy positions of respect among your fellows it should behoove each of you to weigh carefully every act and ambition lest it prove unworthy of those high principles to which you have tonight pledged yourselves.

In every field of human endeavor, he that is placed in a position of honor and leadership perpetually lives in the white light of publicity. Whether you are an athlete, a student manager, an editor, or a leader of your fellows in any field of campus activity, you will find that emulation and envy are ever at work. When your accomplishments become recognized by the great majority of your fellowmen, they likewise become the target for the shafts of the envious few. Whatever you do no one will strive to surpass or slander you unless your work possesses those rare qualities which mark it as truly outstanding. We should gladly pay this penalty of leadership if our work is worthy of respect and emulation. We should realize that the biggest sticks are always found under the best apple tree. But we must remain steadfast in our allegiance to those high principles of honest integrity, self-

less leadership, and conscientious endeavor for which our council stands. If our principles are high and our ideals nobly carried out we shall not mind the envy and the slander which smaller minds harbor against us, for this detraction will be unmerited. But if our principles are dishonored through our actions we cannot expect to escape the sharp criticism of our fellows--censure rendered all the more scathing because as leaders we perpetually live in the light of publicity.

Let us, therefore, inspire our fellows to nobler living and finer principles by the character of those examples of word and deed which we shall set in our own personal lives. Let us make ourselves worthy of emulation in all that we do, and accept unflinchingly those penalties and responsibilities of leadership which our positions demand.

THE BRAVES WILL NOW ARISE, FRAERNIZE, AND ASSEMBLE
ABOUT THE REPAST.