

such occasions; if any one is absent, it is strongly suspected that she dare not come, for fear of being exposed. When assembled on the ground, the hostess of the feast heads the ring formed by the women, and marches around until she reaches the painted stone, which she touches reverently, thereby solemnly protesting her innocence.

Some Indian, the while, stands on some slight elevation, and harangues the young men, telling them if any of these women are unworthy to partake of this feast of the virtuous, to fail not to expose them. The young men pride themselves upon every exposure it is in their power to make; so that a woman who is unworthy dare not be present, unless she happens certainly to know that her guilty paramour is so far away that he cannot be there. If a woman, not worthy to partake of the feast is so bold as to venture there, the Indian who says she is not worthy, goes and takes her by the arm, and leads her out, asking her before the whole assemblage, if she does not remember such a time and place, which he specifies. It is thought that they seldom falsely accuse, as they believe that if they do so, the Great Spirit would be angry and visit them with some dire calamity.

Their feasts. With Indians, a man who gives a feast is popular and well spoken of, and has plenty of pretended friends, precisely as with the white man who often gives good dinner and other parties. They have their holy or sacred feasts, where the guests know, when they are invited, of what they are to partake; and as they pride themselves upon the quantity they can eat, each carries with him the sized dish which he supposes he can eat full. The master of the feast, not eating himself, serves the others, singing and shaking his gourd-rattle all the time. Nothing of this food must fall to the ground. Each guest's dish is filled, and he must eat it himself, or pay some one else to eat it for him; and frequently in attempting to devour what has been put in their dish, they eat until they vomit it back again into the dish, as nothing is allowed to fall upon the ground, and some one must be