

When a daughter is born, the rejoicing is great, as the woman never follows her husband, but brings into the family-circle another hunter. The woman is really the guardian of the man. When men indulge in a carousal, the mother, wife, daughter or sister take all care imaginable that they come to no harm, concealing guns, knives, and all hurtful articles, keeping close watch over them, and guarding them from falling into the fire, etc., etc.

In their wanderings and movings from one place to another, the woman carries on her back all of the movable articles, such as the poles and mats for the wigwam, and in addition the papoose. The man walks with his gun on his shoulder. If there is a horse, the man rides it. When there are many small children, these are sometimes placed on a pony—at other times the mother has more than one to carry. Those who are not too young, are expected, and made, to walk.

Old women have certain work allotted to them, such as making mats, and taking care of the children, when too old to cut up trees, or carry heavy loads—Indians never fell a tree, but use its branches.

Indian Customs Compared with Oriental

The stationary wigwams or winter quarters are fitted up with a sort of ottoman or platform encircling them, upon which they sit by day, and sleep at night. Indians, like the Orientals, are fond of story telling. These are both imaginative and traditional. Many an entertaining story has been told the writer which rivaled any ever read. A good story-teller is an important personage, possessing great attractions, is entertained by all, and followed from wigwam to wigwam.

The Orientals hold their hands above a basin, and the servant pours water on them. Whilst the hands are still wet, they are passed over the face and beard. Indians perform their ablutions by filling the mouth with water, thence spouting it over the hands, and carrying the water to the face, if the face is washed at all.

Some of the ideas and views held by this people may be found in the Bible; for instance, their mode of wearing the hair—see 1 Corinthians, chap. xi. A woman with short hair would remain