

The young man upon arriving at the wigwam is received and saluted by the father only, who, if he is pleased with him, greets him in some such manner as this: "Come in, friend, there is room for you." Upon which all of the family, many or few in number, give a sort of a hitch up, to make room for one more at the family circle around the fire. The young man seats himself by the door and next to the daughter, as the eldest son and daughter always sit nearest the door, on each side of it. The father or mother sit in the back of the wigwam, directly opposite the door-way, and the fire is always placed in the center; the younger children sit on each side between the parents and the elder children. The young man, after taking his seat by his lady-love, produces a few small pine sticks, something in shape like our matches. He lights one at the fire, and hands it to the maiden; if she takes it, he is accepted, if she does not, but lets him hold it until it goes out, he is rejected.

Matrimony

The matrimonial arrangements vary among the Indians. A favorite method is to betroth children when quite young. When in later years the time arrives that they are to be united, the parents of the young man bring valuable presents, such as furs, and other things prized by an Indian. The parents of the bride bring all kinds of ornamental work, wrought by themselves. These are distributed among the friends.

The bride is dressed by her sister-in-law, and then is conducted to her place in the wigwam to await alone the coming of her husband. At other times the parents of the young people make the contract for the marriage. Often the young man has not met the maiden that his parents have chosen to be his wife. In this case, as in the other, the young man's father and mother send gifts to the parents of the young woman whom they wish to secure as a daughter-in-law. If these gifts are accepted, the affair goes on; otherwise it terminates immediately. In most cases the young man goes to his wife's home; but there are exceptions to this, in which she becomes an inmate of his home.

As to the number of wives a man may possess, it all depends upon his success as a hunter. He can have as many wives as