

up the river. Whilst in that sad, forlorn condition she was continually crying for bread being helpless. But the hearts of the Indians as hard and unfeeling as the undutiful sons' were unmoved by her entreaties and they talked about knocking her in the head because her cries annoyed them so much; and in this condition she remained until she actually starved to death within a few rods of 4 or 5 lodges!!

*Plurality of Wives.*

Any Indian can have as many wives as he can purchase or maintain; as taking a wife is in most cases a mere matter of traffic. Sometimes five or six horses are given for a wife, but there is no fixed price and it is generally just as the parties can agree. The match or contract is made by the parents, the young woman not being one of the party or even consulted. In Appenoore's village there were six men having *fifteen* wives, still these men had but few children. Appenoore had four wives and the winter previous six and he has only three children living and has lost five. His brother has two wives and no children living. Old Keokuck had five wives and seven children I believe living, but said he had lost more than ten; he has also had a good many women whom he has put away. This can be done at pleasure, or when either party becomes disaffected. The woman takes the children and she can then return to her father's or get married the same as before; although a woman who has had a number of husbands depreciates and can be obtained for a less amount. They have no idea of the sacredness of the marriage relation, it being merely a matter of convenience or interest without any kind of moral obligation attached to it.

Having a number of wives does not appear to add in the least to the favored Indian's happiness (if the expression is admissible) and they seem to have no kind of community of interest or affection for each other, more than they have for any other individual. I observed that at Appenoore's lodge each one had her own things separately cooked and ate separately and had a separate place in the lodge to sit and sleep.