

Chieftancy among the wild men formerly meant nothing more nor less than absolutism. The head chief was not chosen, but held his office by sublime right. The son succeeded the father. Nor was it always the eldest son, but the one whom the father chose in youth for qualities that fitted him to rule. The chief was a law unto himself, and his right to dispense or withhold favor or justice was never questioned. He, like the other members of his tribe, took unto himself as many wives as pleased his fancy or he wanted to support, and when one failed to suit him, or for any other reason became incongenial, he sold or disposed of her, sometimes killing her. He was subject to but one power or influence--the Circle of Science, or Supreme Council. He was not called upon, because of his chieftancy, to lead in battle, unless he was, by common consent, the acknowledged war chief of the tribe. Age, bodily infirmity or want of disposition to enter battle, were sufficient reasons for his remaining in camp during the progress of a fight. As a rule, however, the head (or hereditary) chief was a warrior, who scorned to shirk any responsibility or danger, and led his braves in all actions when circumstances permitted.

The war chief of the tribe, where the functions of that office were not monopolized by the hereditary chief, was elected by the tribe or appointed by the council. \* He was generally the most ferocious warrior in the tribe; one in whom everybody had great confidence. His medicine was always good and his valor unquestioned.

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