

PERRY, SAMUEL

INTERVIEW

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W. T. Holland,
Field Worker.

THE "PEE-U-TAH DANCE"

by

Samuel Perry, Full Blood Shawnee.

This is a dance indulged in now by some Indians.

It gets its name from an herb used. This herb is either eaten, after being cooked with food, or a drink made of it.

In either case the results are about the same. It is debasing in its effect and more than that, often proves fatal to the user.

This dance, is not one of thanksgiving, or a religious dance in any sense, nor is it indulged in by everyone, for it isn't, but is condemned by many.

The people who care to participate in this dance gather at the appointed place at the appointed time. They indulge in this drink and food, and dance and carouse until unconscious. The use of this herb lowers the moral resistance and debases the character of the user and as I said is condemned by most high thinking and decent Indians.