

Citizenship.

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Citizenship

One time the Oneida people had a great meeting on the subject of becoming citizens. They had assembled where Hanyost Parkhurst used to live. Daniel Baird ? was an advocate of our becoming citizens. They say this Daniel Baird stood up and said, "We will be better off if we change." He said, "This is how it is - it is comparable to there being a pole set across and we are hanging over it. If we fall in the future, then we will jump up and we will have the right to whatever we want. If we change, you will even be able to mortgage your land and it will be possible for you to get whatever you want."

When he finished speaking, this Cornelius Hill stood up and said, "In the viewpoint of my friend, he says we are straddling over a pole set across." He said, "You should compare what he said. When we fall on the other side, there is a great slope that you cannot control. It will drag you down and you won't control when you land far in the valley. When it clears up, you will then look back up to where you were just dragged from and you will see how good it was where you had been. That is the way it is to become a citizen. You will realize the only thing you can expect is a kick in the pants."

That is the way that they were arguing. One man saw that what would happen to the Oneidas was that they would become poor and the other didn't care if they became poor. That must be how I wrap up my story.