

## Queen Anne's American Kings

This delightful little book, with its most felicitous title, is an account of the visit to London in 1710 of four Iroquois sachems. Written by Richmond P. Bond, Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, as "the end of a diversion undertaken for personal amusement and relief from the chores of Academe," it manages to be at once scholarly and entertaining. The reader who is interested in early American history will find in this brief excursion into eighteenth century colonial policy an illuminating view of the period when the tribes of the Five Nations stood as a buffer between the English settlers and the French in Canada. The student of English literature will be gratified to learn that Addison, Steele and Defoe commented on the visit and that Jonathan Swift "intended to have written a book on that subject." And the general reader will enjoy the colorful picture of life in London in the days of Good Queen Anne.

The four Kings were brought to England to impress the British people and their rulers with the importance of Indian affairs and, in turn, to be impressed by the magnificence and power of the Mother Country. They were received by the Queen, dined by the Archbishop of Canterbury and by William Penn, painted by outstanding artists of the time, and entertained by a round of plays and assorted divertissements. What the four Kings from the Mohawk Valley thought of it all can never be known, but apparently they conducted themselves throughout with quiet dignity. According to a contemporary writer, they were "Men of good Presence, and those who have convers'd with them say, That they have an exquisite Sense, and a quick Apprehension." All in all, says the author, "As special envoys in this the first official embassy of American sachems they had fulfilled their mission—to gain and give good will and to consolidate the faith that moves ships and persuades war from peace."

—MARY CUTLER HOPKINS.