

They were speared and netted and trapped until each band had an abundance for immediate use as well as fish to dry. But this year a band of Indians living on the banks of the Menominee not far from Green Bay had built a stone dam across the river. It had been well and thoroughly constructed and the sturgeon were stopped by it so that none got past it up the stream. Under the direction of the chief who had planned the dam, his band reaped a rich harvest.

While this arrangement was very satisfactory to his people, to the other bands farther up the river, it was distinctly annoying. They waited patiently thinking that when the lower group had secured enough for their own use they would demolish the obstruction. Days passed and still no sturgeon came up stream. The run would soon be over and unless the dam was torn down there would be no sturgeon for those in the upper villages.

It so happened that the Indian band located next above the dam builders had for its chief a brother of the chief of the lower tribe, for all were Menominee. As time passed, this man considered that for the welfare of those in his band he must take some means of securing sturgeon. He called to him his son, aged twelve years, and instructed him.

"My brother, your uncle is chief of the band below us. You shall go to him and give him my message. Say to him that I, his brother, send my greetings and would tell him that in my camp there is much hunger. For the meat of the last season's hunt is now gone and as yet we have made no catch of the great sturgeon. Tell him that I, his brother, ask him that as a favor, and that, as his band are fat and sleek and have caught and put by many sturgeon, I ask him again, to open the dam and let some of the great fish swim by. This I bid you tell him."

The lad started on his trip. It was not hazardous, nor had he much to fear. Was he not going to his father's brother, his own uncle?

When he came to the camp on the lower river, he spoke with boys of his own age and let it be known that he had a message for the chief. This information reached the ears of the chief and he summoned the youngster to appear before him.

"What would you with me," he inquired as he sat on his couch in his cabin. The boy stood before him and dared not speak until he was addressed. He was now free to deliver his