

the time of the general combination of the Indians under Pontiac, in 1763, for the destruction of all English in the western country, the Menomonees under their Chief Tomah, went to the officer in command of the British fort at Green Bay, consisting of about twenty men, and informed him of the plot for their destruction, in common with other garrisons, but if he would abandon the fort, and he and his men surrender up their arms that he, Tomah, and his people would conduct them safely to Montreal. The officers and men yielded up their arms to Tomah, except Sergeant Nobles, who declared that he would never surrender his gun to an Indian, and was finally allowed to retain it. All were safely conveyed in canoes to Montreal; and Sergeant Nobles, for his fearless conduct, though he could not be promoted, having a family, was favored with a discharge, and engaging in his trade of a shoemaker, eventually became wealthy. But as I see no special mention made of it in Lieutenant Gorrell's Journal of those times, published in the first volume of Collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, I conclude there must be some mistake about it.*

The principal villages of the Winnebagoes were at the lower and upper end of the lake of that name, with an occasional lodge along the Fox River. At the season that traders generally passed the Portage of Wisconsin, they would find old grey headed Day-

*This tradition, judging from Gorrell's Journal and Parkman's History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac, cannot be regarded as reliable. It is certain that Lieut. Gorrell and his men made no surrender of themselves or arms, and that the Menomonees and others, conducted them to the village of L'Arbre Croche, in the region of Mackinaw, whence the Menomonees returned to Green Bay. But this tradition serves to confirm us in the belief, that Tomah or Carron was much older than represented by the inscription on his tomb-stone, and that he was a man of consequence during the border wars of 1755 to 1763. In Gorrell's Journal, referring to the events of 18th May, 1763, he speaks thus: "The Chiefs [of the Menomonees] were much displeased at Carroy's getting a present from Mr. Goddard of a fine suit of embroidered clothes. This Carroy was much thought of by the French." This refers undoubtedly to the noble Tomah or Carron; and we hope hereafter to be able to prepare, for some future volume of the Society's Collections, a more extended and detailed account of his life and character than has yet been given. What was recorded of him in our last year's Report and Collections, excited general interest in the history of this brave and generous chief. His nobleness and generosity of character reflect real honor on the Indian race, and on the Menomonees especially; and it should be the pride and pleasure of our Historical Society to spare no pains to search out and garner up every fact extant, illustrative of the career of so truly great and worthy a Wisconsin chieftain. L. C. D.