

Mo-he-kun-nucks and Mr. Williams, might, and probably did conceive, at pretty near the same period of time, the idea of a new home for these Indians in the West. But to proceed: In the winter of 1819 and 1820, the application of the Oneidas, Tuscaroras, Senecas, Onondagas, St. Regis and Stockbridge delegates (the latter acting independent and separate) was made to the War Department, for permission to visit the Indians in the neighborhood of Green Bay. The response of the Department was made by granting them a copy of an order to the several Superintendents of Indian affairs, and Commandants of military posts, to issue to the delegates, not exceeding twelve, certain amounts of rations, blankets, powder, lead, &c., and to facilitate their movements on their journey. The Superintendent of Indian affairs at Detroit was moreover ordered to make a requisition, on the naval officer stationed at that place, for a U. S. vessel, should one be at that post fit for service, to be put at the disposal of the delegates to take them across Lake Huron and Michigan to Green Bay. Thus equipped, in July of 1820, the delegation repaired to Detroit*, and paid their respects to Gen. Cass.

As Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Gov. Cass received the party courteously; but it was soon apparent that as Governor of Michigan, the project of New York's quartering her Indian tribes on his territory, would receive no special encouragement, beyond the line of his duty, in obedience to the orders of his superiors. By him the delegates were furnished with the blankets, powder, lead, rations, &c.; but were informed that no Government vessels

*In the *Detroit Gazette* of Friday, July 28, 1820, we find the following mention of Mr. Williams' arrival and mission: "Rev. E. Williams, who has for several years past been officiating as a preacher for the Oneida Indians, in the State of New York, arrived here in the steamboat *Walk-in-the-water* last Saturday. He is accompanied by some of the men of the tribe, who constitute a delegation to visit the Indians in this Territory, for the purpose of ascertaining the prospect of success in the endeavor to christianize them. We learn that it is a further object with the delegation, to find a suitable tract of country within the Territory, to which the Oneida Indians, or a part of them, will remove—for this purpose the country in the vicinity of Green Bay will be visited. No doubt can be entertained of the importance of this project. The influence which the example of Indians who are in a great measure civilized, will have over the habits of their more unfortunate brethren, will, perhaps, have much more effect in weaning them from their savage modes of living, than all the theoretical lessons which can be given them by white men."