

lived, to some extent, as the Indians did; occupying wigwams, or rude houses made of the bark of trees; depending for food, during a portion of the year, on the proceeds of the chase, or success in taking fish, which abounded in the numerous lakes and streams interspersed throughout the Northwest; and many, moreover, intermarrying with the native females, and raising families, who in their turn became permanent residents of the country.

When the dominion of the Northwest was transferred by the French to the English, the latter failed, in a great measure, to conciliate the good will of the natives, and secure their friendship. That nation never acquired the confidence of, or established a permanent friendship with the Indian tribes, like the French. The feelings of the Indians towards the French seem to have been respect and affection, induced by kind treatment, and fair and equitable traffic; while towards the English, they cherished a secret dislike, only subdued and smothered because they were the weaker party. On the surrender of the country to the United States, these unfriendly feelings were by no means diminished, but rather increased; which but too often showed themselves in hostile attacks, and the murder of the weak and unprotected.

These different phases of feeling manifested by the Wisconsin Indian tribes towards the people of the several nations who successively became the occupants of their country, may be easily accounted for. The French came as friends, and not as task masters. They opened a traffic with the natives, lucrative to the former, and, at the same time, beneficial to the latter; supplying their wants in exchange for their furs and peltries. They did not attempt to take forcible possession of the soil, or appropriate it to their own use. They cultivated little or no land, and did not interfere with the game.

The English had in view, not only this rich and profitable traffic, but a more important ulterior object—the acquisition of the country, and its entire subjection to British dominion. This soon manifested itself to the Indians by the policy adopted by the