

steps, leaving no hope to him but that of finding a peaceful grave—a last resting place from his pursuer—beneath the rolling billows of the Pacific.

If we cannot do justice to the Indian by restoring him to his country, and re-uniting him with his scattered race, let us at least do justice to his character. In our prejudice, let us not lose sight of his many noble and redeeming traits. Many of the early settlers of Wisconsin have experienced from the Indians numerous instances of friendship and hospitality; and not a few were indebted to individuals of the Menomonee tribe for the preservation of their lives and liberty during the War of 1812.

By the treaty of peace of 1783, as also by Jay's Treaty of 1795, it was stipulated by the English Government, that the North-Western territory, with its forts, trading posts and dependencies, should be surrendered and transferred to the United States; but as already remarked, the surrender of the posts and evacuation of the country, by the English, were long delayed. Although the United States exercised nominal jurisdiction over parts of the territory previous to the War of 1812, yet this exercise of authority was merely in name. During the war, nearly all of this part of the North West was in possession of the British, and the few Americans who resided here were subject to their authority. It was not until 1816, that that portion of the territory comprising Wisconsin became really a portion of the United States.

All of the tribes of Indians inhabiting the North West between the Lakes and the Mississippi, with the exception of the Pottawattamies and a part of the Ottawas*, were hostile to the States; enlisted on the side of the English, and during the contest waged

*There would appear to be some mistake in this statement. When Col. Robert Dickson collected a large Indian force under the British flag at Green Bay in the summer of 1812, the Pottawattamies and Ottawas formed a part; and in August of that year, a large band of Pottawattamies, under their chief Black Partridge, committed the memorable massacre at Chicago; and the Pottawattamies also figured prominently at Tippecanoe, Brownstown, River Raisin, Fort Meigs, Sandusky and the Thames. The Menomonees as a nation, it is believed, were mainly controlled by their able chief Tomah, who used all his great influence to prevail upon his people to remain neutral—and but a few of the young warriors joined the fortunes of the British.