

of great decision of character. He was attended by a large retinue when he visited Detroit,—was peculiar for carrying his war-axe upon the left arm, tightly grasped with his right hand, as if in expectation of striking. His despotism may be learned from the following occurrence at Saginaw: One of his band killed another. The friends of the victim were clamorous for revenge. The murderer's friends were desirous of saving him from their vengeance, and negotiated for his life. The conditions were agreed upon, and the property offered in fulfillment of the bargain was about to be delivered, when Kish-kawko stepped up, and struck the murderer dead with his tomahawk. When asked why he interrupted their proceedings, and interfered with their lawful agreements, he merely replied, "The law is altered."

Big Beaver, like his father, was a powerful and muscular savage; and one day when the jailor's son went to see him in his cell, just as he opened the door, Big Beaver seized him, thrust him inside, locked the door, and escaped to the woods. He was never re-taken, but was, not long after, drowned in Saginaw Bay.

XIV.—An Indian Trial in 1823. Capital Conviction of Indians in 1828

In looking over some old letters, I observe one from Governor (then Judge) Doty, of Wisconsin, an extract from which I send you. "The lapse of many years" makes many matters interesting, which, at the time, were little thought of. The race of the Red Men, to which the letter relates, is rapidly passing away,

With their old forests, wide and deep,
And we have built our homes upon fields
Where their generations sleep.