

Chippewas, action upon traders' claims, &c., were taken under consideration; speeches from several chiefs had been heard, inquiries into the conduct of certain chiefs, the dealings of some of the traders being scrutinized,—had they dealt fairly with the bands, rendered their goods as per account? had they sold whiskey to the Indians? Recrimination was being indulged, chief against trader, chief against chief; freedom of speech extended to subject as well as to the heads of bands.

Ja-ba-ge-Zhick, whose speech is here appended, is not a chief, he is only a young man of the tribe; his age is near thirty years, quite dark complexion; he dresses in American style, common height and size, attended for a time the Indian school, reads and writes the Indian language well, speaks a little imperfect English, has a shrill and rather feminine voice, hair shorter than the wild Indian style, wears it brushed back, giving him somewhat of a clerical air. He is an earnest and fluent speaker in Indian. He resides at the Bad River Mission, twelve or fifteen miles from La Pointe, and is attached to the bands of that Reservation. He professes the Christian religion, (Methodist,) and strictly adheres to his faith; he is still and quiet in his manner, of much natural diffidence, and evinces commendable efforts for enlightenment.

We heard him express anxiety to rise above the condition to which he was born, to improve in morals and education, and he sincerely hoped that some day he might be instrumental in elevating his poor fellow Indian above his present degraded situation.

Under the rule of freedom to the subject as well as the chief, to speak their views, he presented himself before the Commissioner; we gathered notes of his remarks. Paul H. Beaulieu, of St. Paul, a half-breed, and a young man of fair English education, of rare gift of native talent, speaking with equal facility the English and the Indian, interpreted the speech by sentences. Ja-ba-ge-Zhick, or *The Hole-in-the-Sky*, said: