

*My Father*—I stand here before you for the purpose of protecting the rights of our young men, women and children. If I censure our chiefs, it is for the purpose of waking them up. Here, they are all before you; behold them now in your presence. Our suffering is always brought about by the folly of our chiefs. While they are negotiating, they are always influenced by other parties, and not by the Indians. They never consult the young men, although they are the owners of the soil, the same as the chiefs. The hard feeling existing between the young men and the chiefs, is brought about by the chiefs never advising with the young men in regard to their actions.

The young men, women and children, are here; (pointing to them) look at their poor and destitute appearance, (much sensation among the Indians and white people. The group were made up of a dozen or more of very old and decrepid women, several of most forlorn appearance in regard to age, infirmity and poverty—a large number of children, making a most wretched exhibition, as most of them were either naked or in rags, and a good number of young men).

*My Father*—I came here to plead in behalf of our people. The chiefs do not think of us when they make bargains; they look to their own interests, but their people must take care of themselves as best they can. (Commotion among the chiefs.) Is it possible we should see ourselves starve on account of our chiefs, and not open our mouths to speak?

I am glad you have seen us, and have seen the folly of our chiefs; it may give you a general idea of their transactions. By the papers you have made out for the chiefs to sign, you can judge of their ability to do business for us. We had but one man among us, capable of doing business for the Chippewa nation; that man was O-sho-ga, now dead, and our nation now mourns. (O-sho-ga was a young chief of great merit and much promise; he died of small-pox, February, 1854.) Since his death, we have lost all our faith in the bal-