

was soon distinguished for his eloquence, wisdom, and force of argument.

His daring exploits on the war-path, the chase and in personal encounters, as well as his boldness and force in council, naturally drew around him the young men of his tribe, who admired such feats and traits of character, and who acknowledged him as a leader. Like other demagogues, in their aspiration for distinction and notoriety, he moulded the minds of his admirers and adherents as he desired, and his superior talent and tact at this, and his success in it, could hardly fail to create in him an ambition for position and distinction among his own people, even if it had not been born in him.

He was not a hereditary chief, though his mother was the daughter of a chief; but by common consent of his admirers and followers, he led them in the war-path, in the chase, and in the council, much after the style of the whites in such cases.

His first introduction to the whites, as a man of mark, and a reliable friend of the Government, was on this wise: After the war with Britain of 1812-15, when the British employed the Indians extensively on our North Western frontier, they continued to give them presents annually, to secure their friendship and services in case of another war. One point at which those presents were distributed was on our soil, at St. Mary's, the outlet of Lake Superior, where all the Indians on both sides of the Lake and as far west as the headwaters of the Mississippi and Red Lake, gathered to receive them.

In 1820, Lewis Cass, Governor of Michigan Territory, and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in all the North West, was ordered to break up this present-giving custom on our soil, and if possible, secure the good will of the Indians to our Government and people, and detach them from the British, for without it, in case of another war, they would be troublesome customers on that frontier. He ascended the Lakes and intervening rivers with some twenty-five officers, and soldiers, together with interpreters, voyagers and domestics, in all, perhaps, fifty or sixty men, in a fleet of bark canoes, with a full supply of provisions, and goods for presents. On reaching