

Agent, and made them their first payment after they sold out the Copper Region. There were 5,037 of all the bands, parties to the treaty, and participants in the payment; and, though Hole-in-the-Day was not recognized as head chief of the tribe, yet it was evident, that his influence exceeded that of any other chief among them. He displayed the skill of a general, and the wisdom of a statesman. One or two incidents will show his characteristic traits on these matters.

In the winter preceding this payment, I was informed of a conspiracy, gotten up by the Canadian half-breeds, who, being chagrined because they were not included in the treaty and payments, to capture the vessel—the only one on that Lake at that time—on her way up with the money and goods for the payment, and run her into a harbor on the north side of the Lake, divide the money and goods, and disperse to parts unknown, leaving the vessel and crew to return at their leisure; all to be done before Government troops on either shore could be rallied to their relief. The plan was to board the vessel by cance in a calm, and to have different parties at different points, so that if no calm occurred at one point, it might at another.

As a matter of precaution, at my request, a guard of twenty-five men was sent from the Fort at St. Mary's. The conspirators, who had their spies out, seeing this, were deterred from making the attack, but they came to the payment, several hundred strong, and encamped near the pay ground.

Hole-in-the-Day had heard of this conspiracy, and seeing the conspirators on the ground, was on the alert watching their movements; and about midnight of the second day of the gathering, saw them assembling at a tent, and stealing up near enough to hear them, learned their plans. The goods had been landed and stored in a Fur Company's ware-house, quite out of their reach. But the money was in the stern of the vessel for safe keeping, till needed for distribution. The soldiers were quartered on board. The vessel was moored to the wharf. The only way to which, from the land, was through a ware-house in which a lamp was hung by night, and a senti-