

knowing whether I repeat what is there related, I will mention that the Governor took from Detroit one canoe crew of Indians, under command of Ke-wa-kwish-kum, an Ottawa chief from Grand Rapids, Michigan. At Mackinaw, where we stopped several days, a very handsome, athletic young Indian, whom we called Buck, probably as a translation of his Indian name, was strongly recommended by Biddle and Drew, Indian traders, as likely to be serviceable, and the fellow plead so hard to go, that the Governor took him.

At the Sault St. Marie, the conference with the Chippewas took place in the Governor's wall tent, the sides of which were rolled up, so that it was a tent *a l'abri*. The Chippewas had their lodges on the American side, some distance, say a third of a mile above the Governor's camp. My impression is, that when they came to the conference, they had just come from the British side. You are aware, that the British had, during the war of 1812-'15, been profuse in the distribution of presents, and our Government had not. The consequence was, a settled hostility on the part of the Indians. The object of the Cass expedition was to carry our flag through their country, assert our rights, arrange for a military post at St. Marie, and look for the Ontonagon copper rock. Gov. Cass informed this little squad of Chippewas of this design. He told them of the double purchase of their territory by the French and English; read and explained to them the treaty of Greenville in 1795, of Spring Wells in 1815, and of Fort Harrison in 1816; and informed them that their Great American Father intended to place some troops at the Sault St. Marie, and wanted a small piece of land, for which he was ready to pay a third time.

I must describe the appearance of the Chippewa chief. Beginning at the top, an eagle's feather, bear's grease, vermilion and indigo, a red British military coat, with two enormous epaulets, a large British silver medal, breech-clout, leggings and moccasins. Thus decked off, he arose and said gruffly, that they did not wish to sell their land.* The Governor in-

*Schoolcraft's *Narrative* says: "A brilliant assembly of chiefs, dressed in costly broadcloths, feathers, epaulets, medals and silver-wares of British fabric, and armed from the manufactories of Birmingham."