

and landed on our shores, he spoke with a sweet and silver-tongued mouth, saying that we had large possessions of land, and that he had none, and asked to be permitted to settle in a corner, and live with us like brothers. We received and admitted them as such; and they lived true to their proposition and promise, until they had gained strength. They then commenced to encroach upon us more and more. Their purpose is plain to me—that they will continue to encroach upon us, until they discover that they have sufficient power to remove us from our country to a distant land, where we will be confronted with all kinds of danger, and perhaps be annihilated. The time is not far distant when we shall be placed in a critical position. It is now in our power to force the whites back to their original settlements. We must *all join in one common cause*, and sweep the white men from our country, and then we shall live happy, and we shall have nothing more to do with the hated race. We shall have no unsatisfied desires, as we have an abundance of game in our forests—our rivers and lakes are teeming with all kinds of fish, fowl and wild rice—we shall live as did our forefathers; we shall with our furs and skins obtain all necessary supplies, and—be happy.”

The inquiry was then made, what answer did Pontiac receive from the assembled nations. “Well,” said Shononee, “with the exception of the Menomonees, they all joined with him, and placed themselves in readiness to take the war-path at the first warning. Mackinaw was the first point to be attacked; and after its capture, messengers were to be sent eastward, and the successive attacks would have been like a large prairie set on fire, with a strong wind spreading the flames in every direction, making the whole one solid mass of fire, destroying everything before it as it rushes along! And this would have been the result; but you are familiar with our customs in regard to incantations. The spirit that gave the power to the war-chief, required of him to make a sacrifice of the officers captured at Mackinaw, before taking any further step. The Chippewa war-chief* succeeded in capturing

* See vol. vii., *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, pp. 188-94, for evidence that Matchekewis was the Chippewa chief who captured Mackinaw in 1763. L. C. D.