

of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, and perhaps farther, was to be mapped out, and a large area to be set off to each of the tribes—the St. Regis to occupy the mouth of Fox River and head of Green Bay. A new form of government was to be adopted. The wisdom of the past was to be searched for a model; it should not be a republic, but some plan of empire, with one supreme head. Not a doubt would he permit to be entertained of its success. The United States government had expressed its approbation, and would set apart the country; and a glorious future awaited those who should lead in the enterprise. Would I not be one to go forward in the advance? He thought he could assure me almost any situation in the new government I could name. I have only given a glance at his immense project, which he elaborated for hours, in the most extravagant, impossible manner. The grandeur of his plans had little attraction for me, chiefly because it looked so Utopian—so improbable of attainment. But the single idea of seeing new countries, and especially the Great West, had a charm for me indeed, and in the contemplation of it my resolution for a separation was a good deal shaken; and with a promise of reconsidering the matter, the conference was adjourned. Another thing occurring about this time, inclined me still further to a continuance with Williams. One of the young Oneida chiefs, a man of the best of morals and unshaken fidelity, as well as of high standing in the tribe, named Cornelius Bear, had made up his mind to look with marked favor on the project of emigration. He had spoken to me, to ascertain if I intended to accompany the delegation next year to Green Bay, and intimating his wish for some person to assist him if he should go, and undertake to commit his band to the project. We very soon came to an amicable understanding. I found he intended to employ me as a kind of agent, should he and his band ever remove.

Williams had made more progress with the emigration scheme than I had supposed. The dream of his life was the establishment of an Indian empire west of Lake Michigan. He had communicated with all the Iroquois nations, endeavoring to prepare their minds for the project. The first Christian party of the