

each other. As Gen. Ellis relates, that Williams at the period of 1820-21, was a whole year or more rehearsing to the Oneidas the story of his younger life, full of details of his Indian father, that he himself was born, as he believed, at Caughnawaga or St. Regis; relating many a wondrous tale of his boyish exploits from three years old and upwards; but when the dauphin idea got possession of him, then he suddenly found out he had no memory of his youthful days whatever, and never had: "I know nothing about my infancy. Everything that occurred to me is blotted out, entirely erased, irrecoverably gone. My mind is a blank until thirteen or fourteen years of age," and adds that he "was an idiot;" then accidentally striking his head on a rock in Lake George, his faculties were brightened—except so far as related to his boyhood days. When about ten years of age, as we have seen, he was sufficiently bright to be sent to school with a view of being fitted for the ministry and missionary life; and no one at that period suspected him of being in the least demented. On the contrary, a writer in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, of February 17, 1853, states on the authority of one of Williams' schoolmates at the time, that Eleazer "soon became fond of his books" and "made satisfactory progress" in his studies, which could not, in truth, be said of any idiotic boy.

The story related of Mr. Williams by Hon. J. Y. Smith, in the sixth volume of *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, on the authority of Gen. Ellis, and recently corroborated with some unimportant corrections, by the General himself, is thoroughly characteristic of the man. Williams and Ellis accompanied Col. Stambaugh on his mission to Washington on Indian affairs, in 1830, and while tarrying at Detroit, Williams and the general were invited to tea by the lady of a prominent Episcopalian of that city—the commanding officer of the garrison. When asked if he would take tea or coffee, Mr. Williams declined on the plea of the extreme delicacy of his health—and so of milk; and only accepted some warm water, with a little milk in it. And so with the various good things with which the table was spread and were offered him; only a very thin bit of dry toast would suit his deli-