

With reference to Williams' object in starting the dauphinship story, Hon. Morgan L. Martin, who knew him long and well, believes that he was ambitious of distinction, and fed the flame in such ways as his reading and reflection suggested. He used to talk of Pontiac's confederacy; and hinted if it could be repeated and made strong, the Indians might even yet "wipe out the whites." But his Indian empire scheme failed in consequence of his own bad conduct, and the lack of faith in it on the part of the Indians generally. Judge Martin suggests that Mr. Calhoun, as secretary of war, seemed to favor the setting apart of a large territory west of Lake Michigan for an Indian republic, perhaps in part from philanthropic reasons, and in part to preclude the ultimate formation of another free State; but the Menomonee grant of 1823 was subsequently curtailed as too large for the needs of the colonized Indians.

Williams was visionary and of a braggadocio character—always concocting schemes; and when one came to naught, he was fertile in inventing others. So when the idea of an Indian republic measurably failed, Red Jacket and other influential Indian chiefs opposing it, and Williams' hopes of becoming a great leader were blasted, he naturally turned his attention to some new project—something that would pander to his love of notoriety. There was little prospect of Louis XVIIth rising up to confront him, so he concluded to play the part of a king, and have a brief strut upon the public stage. He seemed to like the attention that his dauphin claim drew to him; and received the visits of congressmen and others, whom Judge Martin introduced to him at Washington one winter soon after the matter had been made public, with no little pleasure and complacency. Though his honors were empty, he enjoyed them to the full; and with a certain

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he applied to her parents, especially her mother, who was a Menomonee woman, and secured the prize, though the daughter was then the betrothed of another, temporarily absent on business. The first intimation Miss Jourdain had of this interesting engagement, her sister informed her that she "need not go to school that day, as she was to be married to Priest Williams in the evening!" And so it proved—a marriage without a courtship—rudely setting aside one betrothal, and a worthy one, to gratify a suddenly conceived whim of Mr. Williams. The whole affair, as much as anything could, sufficiently indicated Williams' thorough acquaintance with Indian matrimonial diplomacy, and how readily and heartlessly he availed himself of it. A high born Frenchman would have scorned such a procedure.