

DICKSON TO GRIGNON

WINNEBAGO LAKE, March 20,¹ 1814.

My Dear Sir:—With the greatest joy and satisfaction have I received your letter, with the express from Mackinaw; also the packets of newspapers which had been forgotten. Never has so much good news, and that so unexpected, come at the same time.

I wrote Lt. Lawe, in conjunction with you, to assemble the people, and Indians for a bon-fire; and at the same time

young Chandonnai expressed his regret for having killed his uncle, but that he did it in self-defense, as he dared not trust himself in the hands of his enemies; and cautioned them, if they attempted to cross the line he had marked, he should not hesitate to kill as many of them as he could with his double-barreled gun. They beat a parley, and agreed to desist from their purpose, and return home, if Chandonnai would give them ten gallons of whisky, which he did.

At the time of the Chicago massacre, in August, 1812, Chandonnai was acting as a clerk for John Kinzie, a noted Indian trader at that place; and Mr. Kinzie committed his family to his charge, aided by two friendly Indians, upon whose fidelity he could rely, intending himself to assist the American garrison in their intended retirement to Fort Wayne. While Kinzie's family was protected by these Indians, the treacherous attack was made on the retiring garrison, Chandonnai rushed out, interceded for, and ransomed the wounded Mrs. Heald from her captor, and conveyed her and her husband, Capt. Heald, to St. Joseph's. From there in November following, Chandonnai and a friendly Indian conducted the Kinzie family to Detroit. He was one of the United States interpreters at the treaty of Greenville in 1814, and at Portage des Sioux and Spring Wells, in 1815. During the period 1818-19, and perhaps longer, he was engaged as an Indian trader in the Chicago region. At the treaty of Chicago in 1821, he was granted two sections of land on the St. Joseph's. He was a witness to the Chicago treaty of 1832; and at the treaty there in September, 1833, he was allowed a claim of \$1,000.

It is said that he drew a pension from the United States for services in the War of 1812; but from Col. Dickson's letters, it would seem that Chandonnai was a soldier of fortune, and served wherever his interests dictated.

L. C. D.

¹ Mrs. Charlotte Harteau and Peter B. Grignon, of Green Bay, though young at the time, remember that Col. Dickson's wintering-place was on the beautiful Island, since known as Doty's, now Neenah. It had from time immemorial been the locality of a prominent Winnebago village.