

# Indian Chiefs and Pioneers of Northwest

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By John Shaw

These reminiscences of Col. Shaw, like his "Personal Narrative," which appeared in the second volume of this series, were dictated by him in 1855—he was then blind—and noted down by the secretary of the Society. Other matters precluded its publication at the time with his *Narrative*. Col. Shaw passed away, as recorded in our sixth volume, in 1871. He possessed a fine memory of historical events. The Indians conferred on him the name of Es-sap-pan, or "The Raccoon"—perhaps expressive of his cunning and sagacity. L. C. D.

**Treaty of Portage des Sioux.**—At this treaty, held a little above the mouth of the Missouri, in 1815, the United States, I understood, acquired a title to the lead region. But the Sauks and Foxes generally repudiated the authority of the chiefs and head-men who ceded that territory, as hunting had become so poor, that they relied much on digging lead mineral and smelting it, and selling it to procure such necessities and comforts as they desired.

Col. Robert Dickson obtained an unbounded influence over the Indians of the Northwest. He established a law, that no Indians should engage in war with each other within twenty-five leagues of Prairie du Chien—that wide belt of country should be strictly neutral ground. I think he must have made Prairie du Chien his summer home for some thirty years prior to the final pacification in 1815. When peace was proclaimed, he spoke to a large assemblage of his red children, and informed them that the treaty rendered it necessary for him to retire to the Red River of the North, and Hudson's Bay; that it caused the deepest gloom in his mind to be compelled to leave his much-loved children, and that he could never recover from this sorrow. The Indians by their tears and grief for many days evinced their strong attachment for their father and friend.