

The Sioux Chief La Feuille, or The Leaf.—About 1818¹ some of the inhabitants of Prairie du Chien were killed by the Winnebagoes. The Sioux were the particular friends of the French, and La Feuille, or "The Leaf," was their head chief of the seventeen bands of the Sioux, residing south of the Minnesotas or St. Peters, some four or five hundred miles from Prairie du Chien as the Indians then estimated distances.

La Feuille, accompanied by about fifty warriors, made his appearance at Prairie du Chien, in response to an invitation from the French people of that place, who received the chief and his party with hearty welcome.

La Feuille was then apparently about twenty-eight years of age,² and very nearly seven feet high of great muscular frame, though not overburdened with flesh, with coarse features and long visage. He was majestic in his appearance, with a firm step, and commanding mien. He called a council of the Winnebagoes, and when assembled in a bowery, in Prairie du Chien, constructed for such purposes, he thus substantially addressed them:

"You Winnebagoes! the enemy of the white man and of all Indians, but too insignificant to be worthy of my notice. Had it not been for the call of my white brethren here, informing me that you had been repeating your murderous deeds by killing some of my esteemed friends, I should not be here in council with you to-day. Upon this call, I could hardly make up my mind to any other course than your total extermination; and you could not have expected any-

¹ It was more likely prior to the establishment of Fort Crawford in 1816. L. C. D.

² Wa-ba-shaw, or "The Leaf," the person here referred to, signed the treaty at Prairie du Chien in 1825, and was probably older than Col. Shaw supposed. He had fought for the British during the War of 1812-15, as mentioned in a note on page 194, ii, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, and was perhaps quite young at that time. When there are successive chiefs of the same name, it is sometimes difficult to determine which one is referred to in our vague accounts of Indian history. The 'great Wabashaw,' who figured during the period of the Revolutionary War, and is briefly noticed in Neill's *Minnesota*, pp. 228-30, was probably the father of this chief of the same name mentioned by Col. Shaw. L. C. D.