

tion, and must now fully identify yourselves with us, the peaceful portion of the nation, and we will, to the utmost of our ability, alleviate your sufferings, and supply your wants. You know me well, and know that I never had a desire to go to war, either against the white or the red man, and always endeavored to inculcate by my own example, that peace was our true policy. Now my advice to you, young men, the remnant of a noble band, is to pursue the game in the forest, and not seek the destruction of your fellowmen, while your women cultivate the soil at some place chosen for the purpose, and there live in peace and harmony with all."

All were deeply affected, and wept like children, and seemed like so many returning prodigals. I was present at this scene, and had my feelings as deeply stirred within me as the rest. Gathering up what little they had, they now followed Keokuck a few miles up the Des Moines, where he and his people resided.

Keokuck was a noble man, and a good friend of the white's. His father's name was also Keokuck, and was the head peace chief of the Sauks and Foxes at their old town, about two miles above the mouth of Rock River, between the Rock and Mississippi, while a small portion were located on the opposite or southern bank of Rock River. There must have been five thousand acres in their fields, and they had every appearance of long occupancy and cultivation, and the soil was exceedingly good. There doubtless young Keokuck was born. His father must have been living at least as late as 1820; I know not when he passed away—but some time between 1820 and 1832.¹

Black Thunder was a noted chief and counsellor, and a very remarkable orator of his day. He was considered the ablest speaker of the Sauks and Foxes of his time. I heard him speak when I went up Fevre River in 1816, and several times afterwards; and can testify to his great ability as an orator. He was of medium size, of strong expressive fea-

¹ Probably prior to 1824, as the name of Keokuck, or "The Watchful Fox" doubtless the son, appears appended to the treaty of that year, as well as to the subsequent treaties of 1825, 1830, 1832, and 1836. L. C. D.