

provisions. In a communication from him, some years ago, to our Historical Society, we gather something in relation to the country and its inhabitants at that period. The Winnebagoes occupied the region about Lake Winnebago, and the Menomonees around Green Bay. Tomah was then the chief of the latter tribe. He did not hold the chieftainship, as heretofore explained, by an hereditary right, but was appointed to that position for his superior sagacity and wisdom.

About the year 1811, Mr. Biddle states, the celebrated Indian chief, Tecumseh, visited the Menomonees for the purpose of enlisting them in the cause of the British against the Americans. For this object he went to the region of Green Bay, where he obtained a council, and hearing from Tomah and his people, whom he addressed in a manner as he best could. In the course of his speech, with true Indian eloquence, he pictured the glory as well as the certainty of success; in confirmation of which, he recapitulated to them his own hitherto prosperous career, the number of battles he had fought, the victories he had won, the enemies he had slain, and the scalps he had taken from the heads of warrior foes. Tomah appeared sensible of the influence of such an address upon his people, and feared its consequences, for he was opposed to leading them into a war. His reply was in a tone to allay the feeling produced by the speech of Tecumseh, in the course of which, he said to his warriors, that they had heard the words of Tecumseh, heard of the battles he had fought, of the enemies he had slain, and of the scalps he had taken. He then paused, and while the deepest silence reigned throughout the audience, he slowly lifted his hands, and with his eyes fixed upon them, and in a lower, but not less prouder tone, continued—"But it is my boast that these hands are unsullied by human blood!" He concluded his speech by saying that he was aware of the encroachments of the Americans upon the Indians; he thought, however, that their condition would be equally bad, if their country fell into the possession of the British. He counseled his tribe against embracing the proposition of Tecumseh; but finally said, that if any of his