

1856. He was a man of much mechanical ingenuity; and during his residence at Odanah he invented a windmill which has since been patented under the name of the Eclipse windmill, a very useful invention, which is now extensively used all over the United States and Europe." Thus Dr. Ellis wrote, soon after Mr. Wheeler's death.

About 1850, came a determined effort to compel the Indians to remove to the west of the Mississippi. Their annuities for that year were paid at Fond du Lac (of Lake Superior). Mr. Wheeler would not advise the Indians to refuse to do what the government commanded, but he could not conscientiously advise removal. In 1851, the pressure to compel removal was made stronger than before, and Messrs. Hall and Wheeler made a tour of exploration in the country to which it was proposed that the Lake Superior Ojibways should go. They left La Pointe on the fifth of June, and returned on the eleventh of July. Mr. Wheeler returned with the conviction that it would be a deed of mercy on the part of the government to shoot the Indians, rather than send them to the new region assigned them, where they would be exposed to the fury of their relentless enemies, the Sioux.

In 1852, the dismal struggle continued. Under date of July 11, 1853, Mrs. Wheeler thus wrote to her parents from La Pointe: "The last winter was one of the most dreary, lonely and trying ones we have ever spent in the country. The breaking up of the mission here [a prospective result of the removal of the Indians] and the unsettled, confused state of Indian affairs threw a gloom over the future. Often did I flee into my bedroom to hide the tears I could not control. The heat and burden of the day press heavily upon dear husband. He has grown old fast since we returned from the East [where they had been for a rest two years before], and I sometimes look anxiously forward to the future. He is obliged to attend to all the secular affairs of our station, and has charge of the property of the [mission] board here, oversees all our own and the Indians' farming,—giving out their seed, plowing their ground, etc. He is doctor for both places [Odanah and