

AN INDIAN COUNCIL.

Council held at Fort McKay, Prairie du Chien, on the 18th April, 1815, by Captain Bulger, Commanding on the Mississippi with the Saulks.¹

Speech of the Great War Chief, a L'Epervier noir.²

"My Father!—I am pleased to hear you speak as you have done. I have been sent by our chiefs to ask for a large gun to place in our village. The Big Knives are so treacherous, we are afraid that they may come up to deceive us. By having one of your large guns in our village we will live in safety; our women will then be able to hoe the ground, and plant corn unmolested, and our young men will be able to hunt for their families without dread of the Big Knives."

Taking the war-belt in his hand, and advancing a little.

"My Father!—You see this Belt. When my Great Father at Quebec gave it to me, he told me to be friends with all his red children to form but one body, to preserve our lands, and to make war against the Big Knives who want to destroy us all. My Great Father said, 'Take courage, my children, hold tight your war club, and destroy the Big Knives, as much as you can. If the Master of Life favours us, you shall again find your lands as they formerly were. Your lands shall again be green, and the sky blue. When your lands change colour you shall also change.' This, my Father, is the reason why we Saulks hold this war club tight in our hands, and will not let it go."

¹The report of this council is given in part in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix., pp. 278, 279, but that copy, furnished by Anderson, carefully avoids mention of his chief, Bulger. It will be noticed that the letters of Bulger and McDonall give unstinted praise of Anderson, but that officer became vainglorious in his old age and sought to exalt himself at the expense of his superiors. The report is given in full here, to complete the record.—Ed.

²Black Hawk, head-man of the Rock River band of Sacs.—Ed.