

respecting themselves and the Indians generally, were announced by the commanding officer, at a special council which he held with them for that purpose. But as the conditions assured to them were not such as they had been led to expect, the chiefs expressed, in very angry terms, their determination not to abide by the treaty. The council broke up in confusion, all the chiefs excepting two leaving the council-house in a sullen humour, and retiring to their respective lands. Among the general body of Indians an extreme degree of excitement was visible; so much so, that there even appeared reason to apprehend that acts of hostility would be directed against the garrison at Fort McKay. Every precaution was immediately taken to guard against any such attempt. For nearly a fortnight the garrison remained under arms in the fort. Captain Bulger passed a portion of each day in the council-house, nearly a quarter of a mile distant, accompanied by an interpreter for each tribe, holding conferences with the chiefs and principal men. He endeavoured by every means in his power to influence them in favor of the treaty of peace; and as fresh bands were continually arriving, he experienced little respite from this wearisome duty. Meanwhile great anxiety was felt by every one within the fort. No one was permitted under any pretense to leave the fort during his absence at the council. Eventually many of the most influential of the chiefs were brought to view the treaty in a more favorable light. Some tribes still continued strongly to oppose it, yet from the subdued tone of their head-men, there appeared reason to hope that they would yet be persuaded to abide by its terms.

Matters were in this state when, on May 20, the official dispatch announcing the peace was received from Lt.-Col. McDouall, commanding at Michilimackinac.¹ Acting upon

¹ In his letter to Governor Clark (*ante*, p. 148) Captain Bulger says that this news reached him on the 22d. Doubtless this was an error of the pen; apparently the 20th is the correct date, otherwise there would have been no time for the council here reported, for Bulger reported to McDouall (*ante*, p. 150) that he evacuated on the 24th.—Ed.