

the instructions which he then received, Captain Bulger lost no time in making necessary preparations for the official declaration of peace to the Indians of the Mississippi. The colour of the great war belt,—on which were represented the "castle" of St. Louis, and the Indian nations hand-in-hand with their English father,—was immediately changed from blood-red, the symbol of war, to blue, the emblem of peace. The pipe of peace was prepared and beautifully decorated after the Indian fashion, and an address drawn up to be delivered to them on this important occasion. For the convenience of interpretation, it had been carefully prepared in short paragraphs, and its heading was in these words: "To the brave and faithful—the Chiefs and warriors of the nations of the Mississippi from their Great Father the King of England, through the Great Chief representing His Majesty at Quebec." While these preparations were being completed in the fort, several officers and interpreters of the Indian department were occupied in the council-house arranging for the ceremony. At one end of the building, directly under one of those large openings in the roof, which answered the double purpose of admitting light, and allowing smoke to escape, a small platform was erected and covered with blue cloth. On this was a chair for the commanding officer. To the right of this platform, a flagstaff was erected, the halyards hanging loosely within reach of the chair, and the staff passing through the opening overhead. It had been arranged to communicate with the fort during the council, by signals, the following programme being arranged: (1) At the hour appointed for the council to open, a gun was to be fired from the fort, to announce that fact to the Indians; (2) the moment the commanding officer informed the chiefs and warriors assembled that he was about to deliver a message from the king, on the name of the king being mentioned, the flag was instantly to be hoisted over the council-house; (3) on this signal being given, a royal salute was to be fired from the fort; (4) the commanding officer having been warned that an attack