would certainly be made on the garrison if any steps should
be taken to deliver up Fort McKay to the Americans, as di-
rected in the orders of the governor and commander of the
forces, he had thought proper to be prepared; should there be
any treachery, or any attempt on the part of the disaffected
Indians to revenge themselves by an open attack on him
or his officers, and their lives were in danger of being sac-
rificed, he would instantly lower the flag over the council-
house; (5) on that signal being given, the guns of the fort
were to be ready to open fire on the Indians the moment
they were observed to make any hostile move towards sup-
porting their chiefs inside the council-house. Captain
Bulger hoped, in such a contingency, that with the aid of
a few faithful warriors he and his officers might, in the
confusion that would naturally ensue, escape to the fort
under protection of its guns.

The morning of May 22 was the time appointed for the
final ceremonies in connection with the declaration of peace
to the Indians of the Mississippi. The officers of the In-
dian Department had completed all the necessary arrange-
ments within the council-house, to make the ceremony
solemn and effective, according to Indian customs. A mes-
senger was then sent over to the fort to notify the adjutant
of this fact, and that the Indians were already assembling
in large numbers.

Before leaving the fort to attend the council, the com-
manding officer told the troops that the duty he was about
to perform was one in which not only his own life, but the
lives of those who accompanied him, might be sacrificed.
To guard against treachery, every precaution had been
taken. The troops were to remain under arms within the
fort, and the gate was to be kept closed until he returned.
If he returned, well and good; if not, they knew what he
expected them to do. Captain Bulger then left the fort,
accompanied by Captain Anderson, the acting head of the
Indian Department, and several other officers.

On arriving at the council-house a large number of
Indians surrounded it. Inside, it was crowded to ex-