

speech of Nat-aw-pin-daw-qua, or the Smoker, a Winnebago chief, delivered before colonel Boyer,¹ the Indian agent.

SPEECH

Of Natawpindawqua Smoker, a Winnebago Chief, delivered at Green Bay, on the 23d of August, before col. Bowyer, the Indian agent.

Father—you fancy, father, that I am of a nation, who are in the habit of telling lies, because other tribes give us that character; but all I am going to say now shall be the truth.

Father—It is true that we have committed faults, but the white people are the cause of it. We red skins believe all that you say, and if your intentions are to attack us, we are not alone.

Father—When at Mackinaw, I there told you the general thought of the Indians, and that they were in dread of you. We are afraid that your intention in coming here, to build forts was with a view to do us harm.

Father—On your arrival here, we were much troubled, because we were apprehensive you had come to injure the Red Skins, but we beg that you may take us under your wings.

Father—You know that the Master of Life governs us all. It is him who placed us on the earth and is our Master. Should your intentions be to destroy us, I doubt if you could succeed, because he *protects us as well as you*.

Father—The words that are issuing from my mouth are the words of truth. I am always seeking good.—When at Mackinaw we told you the opinions of the Red Skins. There are many words, my Father, that are repeated with false meaning. I beg you will not listen to those words.—I am desirous that the children of the same great Father should always be friends. Be charitable and listen to the words I am telling you. We hope that our father will conform to the promise he has made to us.

¹ For sketch of Bowyer, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi., p. 393, note 3.—Ed.