

Memorandum of a TALK held at FOUR LAKES, April 29th, 1833, with the Winnebago nation of Indians, of Rock river.

Present, on the part of the United States, Colonel Henry Dodge, United States Dragoons; Henry Gratiot, Esq., and John H. Kinzie, Esq., United States sub-Indian agents for said nation. And, on the part of the Winnebagoes were present, *Whirling Thunder*, *White Crow*, *Little Priest*, *Little Black Crane*, and other chiefs and head men.

*Whirling Thunder* spoke as follows: Fathers! we are glad to meet you. As you (Colonel Dodge) have just returned from our great father at Washington, we feel anxious to hear the news; we have been looking for you a great while; we are badly situated, and wish much to hear what we are to do. It is for this reason we have come to meet you and our friends here (Mr. Gratiot and Mr. Kinzie) to hear the news. It is true, we bought considerable ammunition last fall; many of the whites believed it was for bad purposes, but not so; we bought it to enable us to subsist during the winter. Our women have broken their hoes in digging roots, &c., to live upon. We look upon you three as our fathers. We resemble children begging of their father for something to eat. We are all very anxious to remain on our lands for this season, that we may be able to raise wherewith to keep us from starving the ensuing winter.

*White Crow*: Fathers! you are a good chief (General Dodge) and we are happy to meet you. I have spoken to you in council before. There are four of you on whom we look to for justice. I mean Colonel Dodge, Mr. Gratiot, Mr. Kinzie, and General Street. Last summer we all met at Rock Island; I recollect what passed between us and General Scott. General Scott was sent to purchase our country; I said I had no objection. Many of my nation appeared to be dissatisfied; but that I think can easily be settled. A great deal of provisions has been promised to us, a part only has been delivered to us. If we were well supplied with provisions, we would not think it hard to remove from our country, but we know we will suffer; and it is for this reason we should like much to remain, for this season, in this country. I have nothing more to say. When you (General Dodge) left last fall, to see our great father, we were in hopes you would bring us good news when you returned, and that we would be permitted, by our great father, to remain on our lands another season.

*Little Priest*: Fathers! we are happy to see you to-day. I cannot speak different from what you have just heard from our chiefs, who have just spoken. We are anxious to hear what you have to say from our father the President. It is the desire of all the chiefs to come and see you, and to hear the news. The season is far advanced for us to make new fields. We beg that we may be permitted to remain in this country this season.

*Haw-paw-kwee-see-kaw* (a brave of Turtle Creek village): Fathers! my views are perfectly in unison with the other chiefs. We were glad to hear last fall when you left for Washington to see our great father. We were in hopes it would be for our good, and that we would be permitted to remain on this land for a season longer.

*Spotted Arm*: I cannot speak different from what you have just heard. My wishes accord with the rest of the chiefs who have spoken. I think like them.

*White Breast*: I have nothing to say more, than we have all been anxious for your return. You were never out of my mind, only when I was

asleep. I hope you will all take pity upon us, and that we may be permitted to remain a little while longer on our lands.

*Crane:* I think as the others do who have just spoken. I hope you will take pity on our women and children. We wish to remain here another season.

*Little Black:* I did not wish to speak, because my mind is like those who have just spoken. I live at the village of the *Warrior*, on this lake. I have never injured any person.

Gen. Dodge addressed the Winnebagoes as follows: I have seen your great father, the President; his wish is, that his friends, the Winnebagoes, should live peaceably and happy. He sent his great war chief, Gen. Scott, last year, for the purpose of making a purchase of your country. His object was to separate you from the whites, and that a great river should be the boundary between you and the whites. That the treaty then made, a copy of which you have in your possession, has been ratified by your great father. All the stipulations in that treaty, on the part of the United States, will be complied with; the provisions, &c. promised, will be given. The President expects that you will comply with your part also. Our object now is, to have a fair understanding with you respecting your removal. I have heard, with regret, from your fathers present (Mr. G. and Mr. K.) that a report has been in circulation, that I was coming with a large force to destroy your nation. Those reports are not true, and without foundation. I have come here, as you see, with no armed men, except with a few of my neighbors, and Mr. Kinzie and Mr. Gratiot, your agents, to communicate freely with you, and to ascertain your views. Actions speak louder than words; words are mere empty sounds: you know me well. I have never disappointed you, and have always aided you in your treaties, and saw that justice was done you. The blood of your people has never been shed by our people on this frontier, except where you have joined with the Sacs, and when we have met you in battle. What has been the treatment we have received from you? *Your* people did aid, and shed the blood of our people. You have identified the murderers of our people, and delivered them up. They have escaped, and are living with you on Rock river. So long as the murderers are permitted to run at large, suspicion and a cloud of darkness will remain over your nation, until they are brought to justice. You have nothing to fear if you do right. To shed a drop of white man's blood will be the ruin of your nation. You have expressed a wish to see me. We here meet in friendship. The United States rangers will be here in a few days. They are not coming to make war upon you. These men are under the orders of Government. They are to keep peace between the white and red man, and to enforce a strict observance of the treaties made with the Government and Indians, and which it is expected will be fulfilled on their part. There is 20,000 rations of pork and flour at Fort Winnebago, on account of the treaty at Fort Armstrong. Knowing your present situation, we will take the responsibility of supplying you immediately with two hundred bushels of corn, in order to expedite your removal. Mr. Gratiot will bring you the corn. We understand that your great father, at Detroit, has about 500 dollars, to purchase corn, &c. for your wants. Mr. Kinzie has sent to your great father, at Detroit, for 300 bushels, to be distributed to the nation at Fort Winnebago; of which the Rock river Indians will be entitled to their proportion. The rations which are to be delivered on account of the treaty of last year are only for those who are obliged to emigrate.



With this corn, (a part of which you require for seed,) and the rations which will be given to you, I think will be sufficient for your support during the summer. Mr. Kinzie has received a letter from Gen. Clark, stating that he would send him now, if necessary, the 10,000 dollars which was stipulated to be given to you in September next, by the treaty of Fort Armstrong. Your chiefs, it seems, do not wish it at present, as you would prefer receiving your money all at one payment; say in the fall. You have now heard what I have to say; it is all I have to communicate. If any of you wish to speak to us, we are ready to listen to your words.

*Whirling Thunder:* I have listened to what you have said. I shall do as the whites wish. Had it not been for our red brothers, (the Sacs,) we would not be in our present troubles. We have always advised with you and our friends here (Mr. G. and Mr. K.). You know well, father, that we have old people as well as you have. We will come up as far as we can with our canoes; and we hope our fathers here, Mr. Kinzie and Mr. Gratiot, will furnish us aid in transporting our canoes to the Wisconsin river. We have always looked upon you as our fathers; we will continue to do so as long as we live; and we hope, after we reach the Wisconsin, you will continue to see that justice will be done to us. We are not like your whites; we never provide for a rainy day. The sooner the corn can be delivered to us here, the better to enable our removal. We wish you three to interest yourselves on our behalf, and to get permission from our great father for us to hunt next fall on these lands. We think what you stated to us is the truth. We don't think you made it from your own head; it is from our great father at Washington, and we feel under many obligations to you for the interest you have taken for us. It is true many of our young men appear dissatisfied, but that is nothing. You may think that I am one of the great chiefs of the nation, but I am not. I have been requested by all the chiefs to speak thus to you. Fathers! our trouble now is, to get our canoes across to the Ouisconsin. I have nothing more to say.

*White Crow:* Fathers! you all consider me as one of the Rock river Indians. I belong to Winnebago lake. That which keeps me here is my wife, who is a Rock river woman. The friends of my wife persuaded me to remain with them, and to be their speaker. You request me now to visit my friends again. I will do so. I want you to send to our great father, and to get permission for me to hunt on Rock river next winter. I want you to speak *strong*. The young men can get along well in the new country, but the old men, like myself, cannot. We wish to hunt *small* game. As soon as I return home, I shall start for our *new home*. I do not know how many will follow me.

*Little Priest:* Fathers! I have nothing more to say than what has just been stated by my friend the *White Crow*: we consider ourselves as one person. I shall follow him.

Gen. Dodge: We have listened to your words. We know that your canoes ought to be transported across to the Ouisconsin. We shall endeavor to have it done for you. You ought to take with you as few canoes as will be necessary.

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CREEK NATION, May 5, 1833.

SIR: We, the undersigned, chiefs of the Creek tribe of Indians, beg leave, through you, to make known to the United States Government that we