

GOV. HULL'S ADDRESS TO THE INDIANS.

His Excellency Gov'r Wm. Hull's Speech to the Ottawa and Chippewa Nations of Indians at Michilimackinac this 28th day of August, 1809.

MY CHILDREN. To meet you in the Country where you live and where your Fathers and former Chiefs dwelt before you, is a great satisfaction to me.

Second:—

MY CHILDREN. I have for a long time wished to visit you. I am now gratified and sincerely hope my visit may be useful to you.

Third:—

MY CHILDREN. I salute you in the name of our Great Father, the President of the United States, and I present to you and to all our Red Brethren the assurances of his Friendship and his disposition to do all in his power to promote your welfare.

Fourth:—

MY CHILDREN. My object in visiting you is not to ask you to sell your lands but to protect you in the Peaceable Enjoyment of them. If any white man has made encroachments on you, inform me and he shall be removed. If any white man has done you an Injury inform me and you shall be redressed. If indeed in our intercourse with you, you have any complaints, let them be known and Justice shall be done you. Your Father will protect you in all your rights: he will suffer no white man to go into your Country without his permission. He will suffer no white man to purchase your lands. Because he might take advantage of your situation, and defraud you of the value. He never will purchase them himself unless you desire it, or it should appear to be evidently for your benefit.

Fifth:—

MY CHILDREN. As an evidence of the Friendship and Benevolence of

your great Father he has directed me to present to you in his name some valuable presents, medal bearing his Image for your Chiefs, and American Flags to be displayed in your villages. The medals you will respect as evidences of the authority of your Chiefs, and they will consider them as pledges of their Fidelity to our country. When you see the Flags displayed in your villages you will remember the Hand that presented them and the duties you owe to the Country and Government they represent.

I shall likewise present to you implements of husbandry to cultivate your lands, powder and lead for your hunting and clothing to warm you when cold.

Sixth:—

MY CHILDREN. Listen thou to the counsel which I am instructed by your Great Father to give you; live in peace and friendship with one another; be just in all your dealings; preserve order in your villages; be industrious in cultivating your lands and, above all things, avoid the immoderate use of whisky as the evil which most easily besets you.

Seventh:—

MY CHILDREN. It is both our mutual duty and interest to brighten and strengthen the chain of friendship; we live together on the same land and travel on the same waters; we are connected by ties mutually beneficial; we are under the care of the same kind Providence; the same sunarises to cheer and to lighten us by day and the same moon to dispel the darkness of the night. The Great Spirit who sees all our actions and knows all our thoughts will be pleased if we are friends and angry if we are enemies.

Eighth:—

MY CHILDREN. At the head of our council Fire stands your Great Father, the President; he is taking you under the arms of his great protection; if you are dutiful children and listen to his counsels you will be safe and happy. He wishes to see you live quietly on the land which is descended to you from your Fathers.

Ninth:—

MY CHILDREN. Your Great Father has ordered me to light a council Fire at this place and to inquire into your situation. He is anxious for your welfare and desirous of promoting it. Guided by his advice and encouraged by his assistance, many of your brethren to the South have changed their habits of life and instead of making hunting, fishing and idleness their principal pursuits are now attending to the cultivation of the land. I really wish you could see their situation, because I think you could be induced to follow their example. They are warmly clothed, they live in

comfortable houses, their barns are filled with the produce of the earth and they possess all necessaries, and indeed the comforts of life. It is not my intention, situated as you are, to discourage you from hunting and fishing; you ought not, however, to make them your entire dependence. In the chase you know how often you are disappointed and how much you suffer when you have no other means of subsistence. Cultivate the Earth, and you are as sure of produce as you are that the seasons revolve.

Your Father has the same desire to assist you as your southern brethren. If you desire it he will furnish you with plows and other implements of husbandry and teach you the use of them. Your lands are fertile and only want the hand of culture.

Tenth:—

MY CHILDREN. Let me intreat you by the love I bear you and the desire I feel to see you comfortable and happy to change your pursuits. Attend more to the cultivation of the land and you may be assured I will represent your wishes to the Great and Good Father and you may be confident of his assistance.

Eleventh:—

MY CHILDREN. It is painful to me to call to your minds the calamities you have suffered in your visits to the man of one of your nations, who calls himself a prophet. When I mention the subject, I see in your countenances indignation and resentment. Vast numbers in their ridiculous pilgrimages have died with fatigue and hunger, and those who survived have only returned to tell their sufferings and show their poverty and negligence. It is to be hoped the miseries you have suffered will be a warning to you in future, and that in all your concerns your conduct will be governed by reason and judgment.

Twelfth:—

MY CHILDREN. I am not insensible of your former connection with the British government. I fear you have too long continued under their influence, without duly considering the change in your situation. While that nation was in possession of the Country where you live, it was proper for you to listen to their counsels and consider the King as your Father. That nation has relinquished all claim to the Country where you reside and it is now a part of the United States and under their jurisdiction. You now, therefore, belong to the American Family.

Thirteenth:—

MY CHILDREN. While I do not object to your occasional visits to them, and acceptance of their hospitality and kindness, it is my duty to inform

you that in your national concerns you are not to listen to their councils, both your duty and interest will lead you to listen to this advice; your duty because you live in our Country; your interest because we are the only nation that can afford you protection, and we offer it to you without any sacrifice on your part. Has this been your situation heretofore, while you was under the protection of the British Government. Some of you now living can show the Scars you have received in wars in which you have had no interest, and the country is covered with the bones of your Fathers who were sacrificed in those wars. Trifles and gewgaws have been the only consideration for the best Blood of your Nations.

Fourteenth:—

MY CHILDREN. We are in peace and friendship with that nation and all mankind. We hope to continue so. If however contrary to our wishes, we should hereafter be involved in war with any nation, the policy of your American Fathers towards you will be different from that to which you have been accustomed. In such an event you will listen to his Council alone. He has directed me to inform you that you are to take no part in quarrels that do not concern you, to remain quite at your villages. He does not wish you to waste your blood in fighting his battles. He is strong enough to fight them without your assistance. He warns you, however, in the most solemn manner to take no part against him. He informs you of the consequences of such conduct that if any of his Red Children should be so lost to their duty as to take up the hatchet against him, he will exterminate them from the country and they shall never again reside on the land which covers the bones of their Fathers. I have considered it my duty to make this representation, that you may warn your young, inconsiderate warriors of the dreadful consequences of violating the duty they owe to the Government which is willing, and which is alone able to protect them.

Fifteenth:—

MY CHILDREN. I have only one subject more to communicate to you. The nations to which you belong extend over a large tract of country and you can have little communication with each other. You have made several treaties with the United States. Those Annuities have heretofore been delivered at Detroit and many of you have received no proportion of them. Indeed your brethren to the Southward say the Annuities are given for lands on which they resided: That you have sold none to the Northward and they consider themselves as entitled to the consideration. They say that this Island, the Island of Bois Blanch, and a small tract on the Strait between lake Huron and Michigan are all which have been ceded in this part of the

country; that these lands formed no part of the consideration because the land between the two lakes had been ceded to the French Government, and this Island to the British Government and the Island of Bois Blanch was a voluntary gift on your part; you will undoubtedly say that you are a part of the nations—that all the lands belonged to the nation, are held in common and undivided, and the treaties provided that the consideration shall be paid to the nations. Your Great Father wishes to do Equal Justice to all of you. Any just and satisfactory agreement in respect to a distribution of the Annuities, which you will make yourselves, will be approved and carried into effect by your Father, the President.

I have no more to say at present. When you desire to speak to me my ears will be open.