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# *HISTORY* *of the* OJIBWAY *PEOPLE*

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With an introduction by  
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## CHAPTER XXVI.

PROGRESS OF THE OJIBWAYS ON THE WISCONSIN AND  
CHIPPEWAY RIVERS.

Remarks—Numbers of the Lac Couerelle and Lac du Flambeau bands—Their mode of gaining subsistence—They attribute their gradual westward advance to the example of their pioneer traders—Michel Cadotte—In 1784 he winters on the Num-a-ka-gun—He winters on the Chippeway within range of the Dakotas—He again winters on the Chippeway, and experiences trouble from the Indians—He winters in the Rapids—Danger from the Dakotas Falls—Two Canadians are drowned in the Rapids—Danger from the Dakotas—Peace is happily effected—Credit due to Cadotte and La Rocque—Warfare between Ojibways and Dakotas—War party and death of "Big Ojibway"—Prairie Rice Lake—The Indian fight on its shores—A family of Ojibways are massacred by the Dakotas—Bravery and revenge of the father—Exploit of Le-bud-ee—New villages are formed at Lac Shatac, Puk-wa-i-wah, Pelican Lakes and Wisconsin—Ojibways come in contact with the Winnebagoes.

We have now arrived at a period in the history of the Ojibways, which is within the remembrance of aged chiefs, half-breeds, and traders still living amongst them; and we can promise our readers that but few occurrences will hereafter be related, but the accounts of which have been obtained by the writer from the lips of eye-witnesses, and actual actors therein.

From this period, his labors in procuring reliable information have been light, in comparison to the trouble of sifting and procuring corroborative testimony from various sources, the traditions which have been orally transmitted from father to son, for generations past. The greatest trouble will now consist in choosing from the mass of information which the writer has been collecting during several years past, such portions as may truly be considered as historical and worthy of presenting to the world. The

important tribe of whom we treat in these pages, is divided into several distinctly marked divisions, occupying different sections of their extensive country, and we have been obliged to skip from one section to another, that we might relate events which have happened to each, in the order of time.

In this chapter we will again return to the Lac Couerille and Lac du Flambeau divisions, whom we left, in a previous chapter, in possession of the sources of the Wisconsin and Chippeway rivers—two large tributaries of the Mississippi.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century these two bands already numbered one thousand souls. They had located their villages on the beautiful lakes which form the head waters of these rivers, and to some extent they practised the arts of agriculture, raising large quantities of corn and potatoes, the seed for which had been introduced amongst them by their traders on Lake Superior. They also collected each autumn large quantities of wild rice, which abounded in many of their lakes and streams. As game became scarce in the vicinity of their villages, they moved in large hunting camps towards the Mississippi, and on the richer hunting grounds of the Dakotas they reaped rich harvests of meat and furs.

The older and more intelligent men of these bands attribute to this day their steady westward advance, and final possession of the country nearly to the Mississippi, through following the example and footsteps of their first and old pioneer trader, Michel Cadotte, a younger brother of J. B. Cadotte, mentioned in previous chapters.

The memory of this man, the marks of whose wintering posts are pointed out to this day throughout every portion of the Ojibway country, is still dear to the hearts of the few old chiefs and hunters who lived cotemporary with him, and received the benefits of his unbounded charitable