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PERSONAL MEMOIRS
OF A
RESIDENCE OF THIRTY YEARS

WITH THE
INDIAN TRIBES

ON THE
AMERICAN FRONTIERS:

WITH BRIEF
NOTICES OF PASSING EVENTS, FACTS, AND OPINIONS,

A. D. 1812 TO A. D. 1842.

BY HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

PHILADELPHIA:
LIPPINCOTT, GRAMBO AND CO.,
SUCCESSORS TO GRIGG, ELLIOT AND CO.
1851.

propriety of the step I took, in
l, without the approval of the
corner), who was, indeed, from
nce in this matter, quite in the
of Indian affairs in Michigan.
tion of chiefs from the lower
lays. After a conference be-
Var, they were referred to me,
ent, communicated by special
treating with them. It was
e too local for the transaction
awas, from the valley of Grand
unrepresented. The various
ated among them, on the lower
on shore to Thunder Bay, were
e Chippewas of the upper pen-
were entirely unrepresented.
putations to be sent from each
transmitting funds for the pur-
legates from the two nations,
held in common, was promptly
en the chiefs and delegates ar-
e council, at the Masonic Hall,
ions formally opened. These
to day, and resulted in an im-
sing all their lands lying in the
of Grand River and west of
ninsula, extending from Drum-
the Straits of St. Mary, west
erior, and thence southerly to
ined on the principle of making
illages, and granting the mass
live on and occupy any portion
required for settlement. The
about two millions of dollars.
sign the treaty on the 26th of
ade by the Ottawas to a matter
discussion, and it was not until
d. It did not occur to me, till

afterwards, that this was my birth-day. The Senate who, at the
same time, had the important Cherokee treaty of New Echota
before them, did not give it their assent till the 20th of May, and
then ratified it with some essential modifications, which have not
had a wholly propitious tendency.

Liberal provisions were made for their education and instruction
in agriculture and the arts. Their outstanding debts to the mer-
chants were provided for, and such aid given them in the initial
labor of subsisting themselves, as were required by a gradual
change from the life of hunters to that of husbandmen. About
twelve and a half cents per acre was given for the entire area,
which includes some secondary lands and portions of muskegs and
waste grounds about the lakes—which it was, however, thought
ought, in justice to the Indians, to be included in the cession. The
whole area could not be certainly told, but was estimated at about
sixteen millions of acres.

About the beginning of May a delegation of Saginaws arrived,
for the purpose of ceding to the government the reservations in
Michigan, made under the treaty of 1819. This delegation was
referred to me, with instructions to form a treaty with them.
The terms of it were agreed on in several interviews, and the treaty
was signed on the 20th of May, 1836.

A third delegation of Chippewas, from Michigan, having sepa-
rate interest in the regions of Swan Creek and Black River, pre-
sented themselves, with the view of ceding the reservations made
to them by a treaty concluded by Gen. Hull, Nov. 17th, 1807.
They were also referred to me to adjust the terms of a sale of
these reservations. The treaty was signed by their chiefs on the
9th of May, 1836.

As soon as these several treaties were acted on by the Senate,
I left the city on my return. It was one of the last days of May
when I left Washington. A new era had now dawned in the up-
per lake country, and joy and gladness sat in every face I met.
The Indians rejoiced, because they had accomplished their end
and provided for their wants. The class of merchants and inland
traders rejoiced, because they would now be paid the amount of
their credits to the Indians. The class of metifs and half-breeds
were glad, because they had been remembered by the chiefs, who
set apart a fund for their benefit. The citizens generally partici-