

CHAPTER III

TENSKWATAWA THE SHAWANO PROPHET

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I told all the redskins that the way they were in was not good, and that they ought to abandon it.—*Tenskwatawa*.

A very shrewd and influential man, but circumstances have destroyed him.—*Catlin*.

Forty years had passed away and changes had come to the western territory. The cross of Saint George, erected in the place of the lilies of France, had been supplanted by the flag of the young republic, which in one generation had extended its sway from the lakes to the



FIG. 56.—Tenskwatawa the Shawano prophet, 1808 and 1831.

gulf and from the Atlantic to the Rocky mountains. By treaties made in 1768 with the Iroquois and Cherokee, the two leading Indian confederacies in the east, the Ohio and the Kanawha had been fixed as the boundary between the two races, the Indians renouncing forever their claims to the seaboard, the Delaware, and the Susquehanna, while they were confirmed in their possession of the Alleghany, the Ohio, and the great northwest. But the restless borderer would not be limited, and encroachments on the native domain were constantly being made, resulting in a chronic warfare which kept alive the spirit of resentment. The consequence was that in the final struggle of the Revolution the