

that they must acquiesce in the new order of things. Apeaking at Fort Carlton, the following sentiments were uttered by Chief Wah-wee-kah-wo-tah-mah-hote ("the Man you strike in the Back"): "Pity the voice of the Indian. If you grant what we request, song will go through the land upon the way. I speak for the children that they may be clad. The land is wide; there is plenty of room. My mouth is full of milk; I am only as a sucking child. Have compassion of the manner in which I was brought up. Let our children be clothed; let us stand in the light of day to see our way on this earth. Long ago it was good when we were first made, and I wish the same back again. But now the law has come, and in that I wish to walk."

Of the value of the heritage they were surrendering, the Indians spoke frequently with much feeling and eloquence. "My terms I am now going to lay down before you: the decision of our chiefs.....The sound of the rustling of the gold is under my feet where I stand. We have a rich country; it is the Great Spirit who gave us this. Where we stand upon is the Indians' property, and belongs to them. If you grant us our requests, you will not go back without making the treaty." This spirited passage is from another speech by Ma-we-do-pe-nais, who has already been quoted above.

All things considered, the chiefs generally showed remarkable self-restraint, but occasionally their sarcasms were very telling. In one instance, the Commissioners having announced that they held in their hands the dele-/p.207/ gated authority of Queen Victoria, and that she had filled their minds with her thoughts, they subsequently found themselves unable to acquiesce in certain requests without exceeding their powers. Thereupon one of the chiefs remarked, "We understood yesterday that the Queen had given you the power to act upon; that she had filled your head with her wisdom and your body with her power, and that you had only to throw them round about you; when it seems that it is not so, but that you have only half the power she has, and that she has only half filled your heads."