

Before making a selection, an examination of the lodges belonging to each band was made; and each band was required to appoint a number of their principal men, in proportion to their lodges, to vote in the election. This gave to some of the bands six or seven, and to others only three voters, but a fair representation according to numbers. When the principal men or Chiefs of the bands had been selected, they were seated on the grass in a semi-circle, in front of the Commissioners, the delegation of each band together, and the whole band a few yards in the rear of the representatives. The actual number of representatives or voters was twenty-four. The Colonel then caused an equal number of sticks or twigs to be cut, of like length, and placed one in the hand of each voter, and then informed them that he would select and place in the center of the circle, a man for the Chief of the nation. If they were willing to take him, and respect him and sustain him as such, they would give their sticks to the Indian selected. If they did not wish to take him, they would keep their sticks or give them back to him. This mode of election was very fully explained to each band, and every one understood it, for each band had its own favorite interpreter. All things being ready, the Colonel proceeded to select his man for Chief. No one present, save himself and colleague, knew on whom the choice would fall, but it so turned out that the man he had selected was one of the voters of the Band, MAH-TOE-WAH-YU-WHEY, or the Lightning Bear. His name is commonly pronounced Matoe-iow-way. He is a man of between thirty and forty years of age, and as fine a formed person as was to be found among the Indians. He is connected with a large and powerful family, running into several of the bands, and although no chief, he is a brave of the highest reputation. Among the whites, and nearly all of them knew him, he bears an unspotted reputation for honesty, courage and good behavior. His face indicates intelligence, firmness and kindness, and his eyes are clear and piercing. His dress, which was much inferior to those of his band associated with him, indicated indifference to his personal appearance. In form and manner, I certainly