

Canadians engaged in this trade; and to proceed in this way for the remainder of his journey. This plan, with the assistance of his friend and principal guide Campion, was immediately carried into execution. He now laid aside his English clothes, and covered himself with a cloth passed round his middle, a shirt hanging loose, and a molton or blanket coat. Then, smearing his face and hands with dirt and grease, he took a paddle, and endeavoured to imitate as near as possible the appearance and manners of the Canadians, and in this manner reached Michilimackinac in safety.

During his residence at this place which continued for the space of two years, he suffered many interruptions in his pursuits, not only from the unsettled state in which the Indians were, at the time, but also from the Canadian inhabitants of the Fort. These last, being jealous of an Englishman's participating in their trade, annoyed him in various ways, chiefly, by framing and circulating stories of the dangers to which he as an Englishman was exposed by remaining there; and strongly recommending him to go to Detroit. Although these rumours gave him some uneasiness, they did not shake his determined courage, and he resolved to remain where he was with his property. Previous to his arrival at the Fort, it had been settled that the property should pass as belonging to Campion, and the rest of the men were cautioned to keep the secret; this however they failed in, and before many days it was known to belong to him.

An additional source of vexation arose to him from the double dealing of one Farley, who resided in the Fort, and had married a Chipeway woman. This man he engaged as an interpreter; but although he professed a warm friendship for Mr. Henry, he secretly forwarded the designs of the Chipeways to his injury. It was during his stay here that he was visited by the chiefs of several of the Indian nations, whose friendship he had the good fortune to gain, through the influence of his conciliating manners, aided by some presents, which these people very unceremoniously demanded from him. The progress he made in the good graces of these tribes, and their strong indications of favour towards him, so far removed his apprehensions of any hostility from them, that he resolved to proceed to Lakes Michigan and Superior where his trade could be pursued with still greater advantage. It was when all was prepared for this expedition that his designs were frustrated, by an occurrence which again put his life in the most imminent danger. Mr. Henry represents this interruption as coming from a nation of Indians termed the Ottawas, whom he mentions as farther advanced in civilization than the others; but who are exceeded by none of them in savage cruelty, as was afterwards seen in the destruction of the Englishmen at Fort Michilimackinac.

The first appearance of these at the Fort was in a body of about 200 warriors, who came and billeted themselves in the houses of the different Canadians residing in the place. At a council they informed the traders that they had come to get from them the different supplies which their women and children were in want of—and which they did in the following manner:—