

"The Great Spirit sent us here, and by the same fiat we are now happily about to return to our own Mississippi, and our own people. It affords us much happiness to rejoin our friends and kindred. We would shake hands with all our white friends assembled, and offer our best wishes for their prosperity. Should any of them go to our country on the Mississippi, we would take pleasure in requiting the many kindnesses we have received from their people here. We will go home with peaceable dispositions towards our white brethren, and endeavor to make our conduct hereafter more satisfactory to them. We bid you all farewell, as it is the last time we may see each other."

*Black-hawk* then said a few words, expressing the same sentiments; and one o'clock having arrived, they departed. This was 5 June.

When the steam-boat was near Baltimore, it was discovered that there had been a robbery committed on board; and when this became known to *Black-hawk*, he showed considerable concern, fearing some of his party should be suspected; and when the boat lay to at considerable distance from the wharf, to make search for the money, he said, "*he desired that himself and company should be searched, for he would let the whites know that the Sacs did not steal.*"

President JACKSON had arrived in Baltimore, and after *Black-hawk's* arrival he had an interview with him. The Indians were conveyed in the steam-boat Columbus, and arrived about 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the next day, after leaving Norfolk, namely, 6 June. Among the crowds who visited them were many ladies, to whom, generally, the Indians said, "*Pretty squaws, pretty squaws.*"

The Indians and the president attended the theatre the same night, and it was remarked, that the attention of the house was pretty nearly equally divided between them. On the next day occurred the interview between them, of which mention has just been made; at which time, among other things, the president said to the old chief:—

"When I saw you in Washington, I told you, that you had behaved very badly, in raising the tomahawk against the white people." He added, that his conduct last year had caused him to send out his warriors against him, and that he and those with him had been surrendered to him to be kept during his pleasure, or until he should think there would be no danger from letting him go. "I told you," he continued, "I would inquire whether your people wished you should return, and whether, if you did return, there would be any danger to the frontier. General Clark and General Atkinson, whom you know, have informed me that *Sheckak*, your principal chief, and the rest of your people, are anxious you should return, and *Keokuk* has asked me to send you back. Your chiefs have pledged themselves for your good conduct."—"You will see the strength of the white people. You will see that our young men are as numerous as the leaves in the woods. What can you do against us?"—"When you go back, listen to the counsels of *Keokuk* and the other friendly chiefs."

To this the Prophet said a few words, as follows:—

"Father, my ears are open to your words; I am glad to hear them; I am glad to go back to my people. I want to see my family. I did not behave well last summer. I ought not to have taken up the tomahawk. But my people have suffered a great deal. When I get back, I will remember your words. I will not go to war again. I will live in peace. I will hold you by the hand."

*Black-hawk* intended to have made a long speech at this time; but the president was unable to hear him out, on account of the great fatigues he had undergone, and the old chief was, therefore, very short. He said, "*My heart is big, for I have much to say to my great father,*" and closed, after many expressions of affection and respect for him. The warmth of the weather and the great crowd that surrounded the hotel in which the Indians were lodged, caused them to retire to Fort M'Henry, about 3 miles below the city. The landlord said the crowd was so great about his house, that they had carried away his banisters, windows, and he was fearful, if they remained longer, that his whole house would be carried away also.