

THE EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY CHARLES NEGUS.

[Continued from page 940.]

This trading post was located on Leech Lake in $47^{\circ} 16' 13''$ north latitude, and is described by Gen. Pike as being built on the lake shore, and having an inclosed garden of fifteen acres, a square stockade of one hundred and fifty feet, the pickets being sixteen feet in length, three feet under, and thirteen feet above the ground, and bound together with horizontal bars—"and at the west and east angles are square bastions pierced for fire-arms."

The main building of the establishment was sixty by twenty-five feet on the ground, and a story and a half high, with cellar under the whole building. On the west of this house was a range of buildings fifty-four feet long and eighteen wide, and on the east was another fifty feet long and eighteen wide. These buildings were divided off into various rooms, to suit the convenience of the establishment; and within the enclosure in front of the main building, was a flag staff fifty feet high, on which was waving a British flag.

On the 12th of February, Pike, accompanied by McGillis and three other men, made a journey of thirty miles to another establishment of the North-west Company, situated on Cedar Lake. This post is situated a little north of east of the one occupied by McGillis at the northern extremity of Cedar Lake, in latitude $47^{\circ} 38'$; and "may be called the upper source of the Mississippi, being fifteen miles above Little Lake Winipie and the extent of canoe navigation, and only two leagues to the source of the Hudson Bay waters."

This trading post was at that time occupied by a Mr. Roy, Canadian, and his wife, a Chippewa squaw, who received their guests very kindly, and treated them with the greatest hospitality their circumstances would permit.

At this time there was in the employment of the Company their various posts, one hundred and nine men, besides

twenty-nine Indian women and fifty children, being the families of those living in the Indian country.

On the 14th they returned to the post on Leech Lake, and prepared to hold a council with the Indians. Pike raised the American flag in the fort—"the English yacht still flying at the top of the flag staff." He directed the Indians and his riflemen to shoot at it, "who soon broke the iron pin to which it was fastened, and brought it to the ground."

On the 16th a sufficient number of the Indians having arrived, the council was convened, and Pike opened it with a lengthy speech, telling them for what purpose he had visited them, and wished them to make peace with the neighboring nations, and that in the future they should look to the United States for protection, and demanded that they should give up their British flags and medals to him, promising to send them American ones in their place. He also urged that they should send down to St. Louis with him a delegation to meet with the chiefs of other nations, for the purpose of making a general peace.

All the Indians agreed to make peace, and smoke out of the pipe sent up by La Fieuelle (or Wabasha), and give up their flags and medals; but they were reluctant about going with Pike to St. Louis. After using many devices to get some of the chiefs to promise to accompany him, he arose and said "that he was sorry to find that the hearts of the Sauteurs of this quarter were so weak; that the other nations would say, 'What! are their no soldiers at Leech, Red and Rainy Lakes who had the hearts to carry the calumet of their chiefs to their father?'"

This speech had the desired effect. Two of the most celebrated young warriors, (Bucks and Beaux) arose, and offered to undertake the embassy. Their example animated others, and it would have been no difficult matter to have taken a company. But two being sufficient, the two first were taken under the protection of Pike, and he promised them a safe passport till they returned.

During their stay at this post, Pike and his men were

treated with the greatest kindness by McGillis, and on their departure, he presented the General with a pair of "dogs and cariole," valued in that country at two hundred dollars.

On the 18th of February the company started on their journey back to St. Louis, "amidst the acclamations and shouts of the Indians," the most of whom had remained to see them start.

Pike, accompanied by the two Indian ambassadors and one of his men, with his sleigh and dogs, proceeded ahead of the party, and on the 3d of March fell in with Corporal Meek and another man from the post where he had left part of his men, from whom he learned that one of his sentinels had been shot at by a Sioux; that his Sergeant had disobeyed his orders in managing the affair which had been entrusted to his command; had consumed or disposed of most of the stores at the post, and had given liquor to the Indians.

This intelligence was very annoying and mortifying to the General, and he sent ahead of him a special messenger to the post, giving orders that there should be no salute fired on his arrival.

On the 5th of March Pike arrived at the post below Pine Creek, and on examining into the conduct of the Sergeant, found that he was guilty of the charges reported against him, for which he was punished by being deprived of his office.

As soon as it was known that Pike had returned, Thomas, the head chief of the Menomène (or Fols Avoïn) Indians, with ten others of his nation, came to the post to indicate their friendly disposition, and presented Pike with a peace pipe to give to the Sauteur ambassadors, "with assurances of their safety on their voyage, and his wish for them to descend the river."

While here, Pike, with his interpreter, made a visit to Thomas, who, with six lodges of his nation, were encamped about twenty miles below, on the west side of the Mississippi. On arriving at the place they were conducted to the lodge of the chief, who "received them in patriarchal style." He pulled off their "leggings and moccasins," assigned them the

best place in his lodge and offered them dry clothes. He presented them with syrup, made from the sap of the maple, to drink, and prepared a repast of beaver soup for them to eat. The chief then took his guests to the several lodges in the village, and introduced them to the inmates; and in each lodge they showed their friendship by presenting them with some luxury, such as maple sugar, beaver's tail, or something of the kind for them to eat. After their introduction, they returned to the lodge of the old chief, where they found a bed "of good soft bear skins and a large feather pillow prepared for their repose."

While on this visit there happened an incident which, to an enlightened people, might appear degrading, but was no doubt considered as a generous act on the part of this distinguished chief. The chief had noticed a gold ring on Pike's finger and made some inquiry about it, when he was told that it was the gift of his wife, "with whom he should be happy to be at that time." The old chief appeared to reflect over this matter seriously, and at night told the interpreter "that perhaps his father (Pike) felt much grieved for the want of a woman; if so, he could furnish him with one." He was told that the Americans had but one wife, and that they considered it their duty to remain faithful to the one. The old chief thought this a strange custom (as he had three wives), and said "he liked to have as many as he pleased."

After a short stay at this village, Pike returned to his post, where he found Shawonoc, another of the chiefs of this nation, with six of his young men, who had been most active in trying to keep up hostilities among the different nations. Pike reprimanded him severely for his conduct, which he seemed to take without resentment, to the great surprise of his men, and promised to abandon his hostile projects and endeavor to cultivate peace.

After this interview, Pike, at the request of the chief, with ten of his men, visited his village, where they were received by the chief with the usual "Indian hospitalities," but very different from the polite reception given by Thomas. This

nation of Indians were noted for their beauty, the men being straight and well-formed, and the women having delicate limbs and fair and mild countenances.

Pike, after enjoying the hospitalities of his new acquaintances, in turn invited the principal ones of the village to his post, and gave them an entertainment, where they danced till a late hour at night, and closed the festivities by a rehearsal of their war exploits.

On the seventh of April, the ice having gone out of the river, and everything having been put in readiness, Pike left his winter quarters and started down the river, and on the tenth arrived at the mouth of the St. Peter's river, where he stopped and had a council with some of the chiefs from the Sussitongs, Gens-des-Feuilles and the Gens-du-Lac, bands of the Sioux whom he had not seen on his way up the river. With the exception of the Yanctons, who had not yet arrived, chiefs from every band of the whole Sioux nation had been seen. At this council there were forty chiefs present, and Pike informed them of his transactions with the Sauteurs and other tribes that he had seen, and of their disposition to make peace, and made arrangements with them to send a representation of their nation to St. Louis.

Among the number of the Sioux who visited Pike on this occasion, was Nez Corbean (called by the French Roman Nose, and by the Indians the Wind that Walks), a man who had formerly been the second chief in the Sioux nation, but having been the cause of the death of one of the traders, several years before, he voluntarily relinquished the dignity of chief, and had frequently requested to be given up to the whites to atone for the act, and on this occasion he offered to go to St. Louis and suffer the penalty of his crime; but as the crime was committed before the United States laws were extended over that country, he was not amenable to them, and his offer to give himself up was declined.

After Pike had left, the delegation from the Yanctons arrived, and finding he had gone, they followed him to Prairie du Chein. This band was noted as the most savage and war-

like band of the Sioux nation, though they had always cultivated a friendly feeling towards the whites. On their arrival, Red Thunder, their principal chief, sent for Pike to come and see him. On going to the camp, he found the chief "prepared with the most elegant pipes and robes" that he had seen among any of the tribes. The chief received him courteously, and assured him that his band were friendly disposed to the whites, and said "that white blood had never been shed in the village of the Yanctons."

A short distance from this place there was a village of the Puants (or Winnebagos), and quite a number of the chiefs of this nation, from this and other villages, agreeable to their promise to Pike on his way up the river, had assembled to have a council with him. In this council Pike assured them that he was much pleased that they had regarded his request to meet him on his return, and gave them assurance that the United States would be friendly towards them, and endeavor to make them happy, if they conducted themselves properly. He told them he had learned that some white people had been murdered by some of their nation, and demanded the murderers at their hands to be given up that they might be tried for the offense. In reply, he was told that the murderers should be surrendered; that there was but one present, but they would procure the others and take them to St. Louis when they went to see their "Great Father."

This council closed Pike's interview with the Indians, and he made his way direct to St. Louis, where he arrived on the 30th of April, 1806. In this visit among the different nations of the savages, Gen. Pike, on all occasions, endeavored to harmonize and make peace among them. He informed the Indians that they were then under the jurisdiction of the United States government, and that they must no longer look to the English government for protection; and whenever he met with any of the chiefs, demanded that they should give up their British flags and medals, which, with a few exceptions, was cheerfully done, promising them they should be supplied with American flags and medals in their

place. But it would seem that the United States government did not fully keep their plighted faith; for Pike says, "My faith was pledged to the savage chiefs for the replacing of these medals and flags," but owing to the change of agents, "and a variety of circumstances, it was never fulfilled. This has left a number of the Sioux and Sauteur chiefs without their distinguishing marks of dignity," which they considered as a fraud practiced upon them, "and would render my life in danger should I ever return among them." This is one of the many instances in which this people have been treated in bad faith by the whites.

(To be Continued.)

INDIAN MOUNDS.

BY CHAS. A. WHITE, M. D., STATE GEOLOGIST.

The whole history of the American continent, previous to its discovery by Columbus, is so wrapped in impenetrable mystery, that the least memento of its ancient inhabitants is regarded with unusual interest. Of the race which existed when Europeans first visited America, and which now occupies a large portion of it, we have comparatively full information; yet of their origin or advent upon the continent, we know nothing with certainty.

Notwithstanding this want of knowledge of their early history, the evidence seems to be satisfactory, that an aboriginal race more ancient than they, and having entirely different customs, once inhabited the country now occupied by the northern and north-western States, as well as parts of Canada.

The principal features of this evidence within the area named, consists in the remains of ancient copper-mining in the Lake Superior region, and the presence of what are commonly known as Indian Mounds.* It is believed that the present race of Indians, at the time of the first visit of the

* The so-called walled lakes of Northern Iowa have been supposed by some to present evidence of the handiwork of an ancient race of men, but as I have elsewhere shown, those phenomena are entirely due to natural causes.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.