28th Congress, 1st Session. Rep. No. 363. Ho. of Reps.

WINNEBAGO INDIANS.

[To accompany joint resolution H. R. No. 18.]

March 27, 1844.

Mr. Bidlack, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa, respectfully report:

That the application of the memorialists appears to be entirely reasonable in every aspect in which the committee can view it—whether as it respects the obligations of the Government towards the citizens of the Territory, or the several tribes of Indians who are interested, either directly or indirectly, in the questions involved.

There seem, however, to be very serious difficulties in the way of accomplishing the object, arising from various circumstances, which are herewith stated and referred to. In our negotiations with the Indians, they have been treated as *quasi*-independent powers; yet it cannot be disguised that, on the other hand, our relations with them have been, in many respects, those of a trustee to his ward. By the treaty of 15th September, 1832, (article 2d,) the neutral ground, from the Mississippi river, as far west as the eastern branch of the Red Cedar creek, was granted to the Winnebago nation, to be held as other Indian lands are held. The treaty of 1st November, 1837, ceded all the Winnebago lands east of the Mississippi river to the United States; and the Indians were to be permitted to hunt upon the western part of the neutral ground, "until *they shall procure a permanent settlement.*"

This permanent settlement they have not procured; and those who are acquainted with the improvident nature of the Indians generally, and of the Winnebagoes in particular, cannot avoid the conclusion that they will never do it.

It would seem that this provision was an unfortunate oversight in the treaty. There can be no doubt that, in the exercise of good faith, the Winnebagoes should have removed long since. But they have not done so; and the memorialists pray that the Winnebago tribe of Indians may be removed from their location on the "neutral ground," with a view to their permanent future residence on some more suitable district of country. The reasons which the memorialists offer are—

1st. That the Indians located on this neutral tract are dissatisfied with their situation—amongst other reasons, on account of the contracted limits of their hunting-grounds.

Blair & Rives, print.

2d. The Sac and Fox tribes of Indians, situated between the borders of Iowa Territory and the "neutral ground," complain of the use to which it has been appropriated, contrary to the treaty, and to the object for which that tract of country was ceded to the United States; that object having been, in a good degree, prevented by the location of the Winnebago Indians on it.

3d. The Sioux to the north of this tract, and the Sacs to the west of it, complain in the same manner, and upon the same grounds, as the Sacs and Foxes.

4th. The whole of these contiguous tribes are threatening to remove the Winnebagoes by force, if they do not leave peaceably.

5th. It appears to be the understanding of the Sac, Fox, and Sioux tribes of Indians, that the "neutral ground" was ceded and intended to be a line of perpetual separation between them.

6th. Because, if the present difficulties should result in war amongst those tribes, it must spread itself, to the injury and safety [insecurity] of the people of that Territory.

From all the information the committee have obtained, they are convinced that most, if not all, the foregoing reasons are well founded. Many of the facts are confirmed by the report of Messrs. Lang and Taylor, who, from praiseworthy motives, in 1842, visited most of the western Indian tribes, and reported their observations to the yearly meetings of Friends of New England and New York. These gentlemen refer, in particular, to the subject of trade and intercourse; and as it will appear, in the course of this investigation, that the main difficulty arises from the interference of these traders, the committee feel authorized to refer to their remarks upon this point. They say, in speaking of this trade with the Indians, by some of those persons licensed by the Government, "the Winnebagoes will, in a few years, be numbered with the tribes that are not.* We were credibly informed that, in defiance of the present rigid laws, immediately after the payment of 1841, there were sold to this tribe two hundred barrels of whiskey; and at the time of our being there in 1842, the whiskey sellers had increased in number one-third. These whiskey dealers and licensed traders find a strong inducement to follow up the poor Indian, from the fact that he receives so large a payment at one time.

"The Indian, as a general thing, is improvident to the last degree, and but poorly calculated to keep any amount of surplus property; so that, within four or five days, the whiskey seller residing on the frontier, and the licensed trader who is permitted to vend his goods among them, get nearly all the money. The licensed traders are numerous, and generally plant themselves, at the time the money is paid over, in the immediate vicinity of the place where the payment is made. They sell the Indians the most trifling and worthless articles for an enormous profit; the Indian is tempted oftentimes to buy these articles from their gaudy appearance. After he has parted with his last dollar in money to the whiskey seller or licensed trader, in payment of old debts for whiskey, or for some

* "We were informed by the agent that he had registered the names of thirty-nine Indians, who had been butchered in their drunken revels among themselves, within the space of fourteen months; and he did not doubt but that there were others who had been killed in this way, whose names had not come to his knowledge."

of the above-mentioned articles, (and the Indian is always largely indebted to these dealers,) he then takes the articles he has purchased of the licensed trader to the whiskey-shop, and sells them for a much less price than he gave, and takes his pay in whiskey, at ten or even twenty times the actual cost to the seller. It is no uncommon thing for an Indian, after he has parted with all his money, and many other necessary articles, to barter away his gun, horse, and even his blanket, for a few bottles of whiskey. We were credibly informed that these whiskey-shops not unfrequently have large piles of blankets and large stacks of guns that have been taken from the poor native for a little whiskey."

It will be discovered, by reference to the report of Governor Chambers, that he attributes his failure to treat with the Winnebagoes to the interference of these very traders. But, as the question of trade and intercourse will be the subject of another report, the committee do not pursue it now. At the last Congress, provision was made to treat with the Winnebagoes, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee on Indian Affairs. They then gave a correct history of our relations with the Indians, as follows:

"The frequent wars amongst these Indians, and the consequences resulting, induced the United States Government to enter into a general treaty with a considerable number of the western and northwestern tribes, in order to define their several territorial limits and boundaries. It was supposed that, if this were done, and some obligation imposed upon them to confine themselves to these limits, one great cause of collision and angry differences would thereby be removed. Accordingly, a large number of these tribes met the commissioners of the United States, at Prairie du Chien, on the 19th August, 1825, and entered into a treaty defining their territorial boundaries and limits, as before mentioned. The preamble to that treaty asserts the policy and the objects of the United States in thus treating with them, and is as follows:

"'The United States of America have seen, with much regret, that wars have, for many years, been carried on between the Sioux and Chippewas, and more recently between the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, and also between the Iowas and Sioux, which, if not terminated, may extend to the other tribes, and involve the Indians upon the Missouri, Mississippi, and the lakes, in general hostility. In order, therefore, to promote peace among these tribes, and to establish boundaries among them and the other tribes who live in the vicinity, and thereby to remove all causes of further difficulty, the United States have invited the Chippewa, Sac and Fox,' &c.

"By this treaty, the boundaries within which various tribes of Indians were to confine themselves were established, and, amongst others, a line dividing the territory of the Sioux and the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes was also established. It was found, however, that the existence of this line, though clearly marked and defined, did not altogether allay the collisions between those tribes, which its establishment was intended and expected to prevent. The Government, intont, however, in carrying out its humane policy, again met these last-mentioned tribes on the 15th July, 1830, for the purpose of treating with them. The 2d article of the treaty then entered into is as follows:

"'The confederated tribes of the Sacs and Foxes cede and relinquish to the United States, forever, a tract of country twenty miles in width,

from the Mississippi to the Des Moines, situate south and adjoining the line between the said confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, as established by the second article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, of the 19th of August, 1825.'

"And the 3d article is as follows:

"'The Medawah-kanton, Wah-pa-coota, Wah-peton, and Sisseton bands of Sioux, cede and relinquish to the United States, forever, a tract of country twenty miles in width, from the Mississippi to the Des Moines river, situate north and adjoining the line mentioned in the preceding article.'

"And thus was established what was known, then and since, as the '*neutral ground*;' being a tract of country forty miles wide, and running from the Mississippi to the Des Moines river, a distance of some 160 miles or more, and entirely separating the territory of the Sioux from that of the Sacs and Foxes. And the main object sought by the treaty (being peace between these tribes) seems to have been well attained by the establishment of the 'neutral ground.' This policy was certainly wise and humane; and there is no reason to doubt its entire success, had not the United States Government itself, in placing a strange tribe upon this neutral tract, and in such a relation to the tribes north and south of it, as to be a perpetual cause of irritation and dislike.

"At the termination of the Black Hawk war, the United States, by the treaty of Rock Island, in 1832, ceded to the Winnebago tribe of Indians a large portion of this tract, known as the 'neutral ground.' This, it is insisted by the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes, was, on the part of the United States, a violation of the treaty by which these lands were ceded, and a departure from the uses and purposes to which that tract of country had been allotted.

"Whether this is or is not a just construction of the treaty of 1830, it is not now very material to inquire. Certain it is, however, that the Indians so understood it, and ceded their lands, as they say, with that view and that understanding. The reasonableness of this construction is supported by the acknowledged objects to be attained by the establishment of the 'neutral ground,' as a broad line of separation between these hostile tribes. The conclusion of the first article of the treaty alluded to, taken in connexion with the policy and purposes to be established by it, is not properly susceptible of any other interpretation than such as the Indians understood it to mean, and have placed upon it.

"That portion of the article of the treaty is as follows:

"'But it is understood that the lands ceded and relinquished by this treaty are to be assigned and allotted, under the direction of the President of the United States, *to the tribes now living thereon*, or to such other tribes as the President may locate thereon, for *hunting* and other purposes.'

"It would seem, from this, that the President had no right to assign these lands to any but those '*tribes now living thereon*;' or to any other tribe, but for the mere *temporary* purpose of '*hunting*,' or other purposes of a like *temporary* nature. It is clear that no other purpose could have been contemplated, because a contrary construction would entirely defeat the humane objects and intentions of the treaty, and all the benefits and advantages sought to be attained by it."

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in answer to the inquiry of the committee of last Congress, remarked:

"The department feels a strong anxiety to effect a treaty with the Winnebago Indians; and last autumn some of their chiefs were conferred with informally, in reference to the cession of that part of the neutral ground granted to them, but they refused peremptorily to accede to the wishes of the Government. There is reason, notwithstanding, to hope that we shall be able to effect a negotiation, at the proper season, that will be satisfactory to them and to us.

"The treaty of 1832 gave to the Winnebagoes, in exchange for the land they ceded by that instrument to the United States, a part of the neutral ground, extending from the Mississippi to the eastern branch of the Red Cedar creek, of which the Indians, by the 2d article of the treaty of 1st November, 1837, relinquished 'the right to occupy, except for the purpose of hunting, twenty miles immediately west of the Mississippi.' By the 3d article, they agreed to remove within eight months, &c., to that portion of the neutral ground conveyed to them by the treaty of 1832—the United States agreeing 'that the said Indians may hunt upon the western part of said neutral ground until they shall procure a permanent settlement.' The ground that they hold under the treaty is bounded by a line drawn from a point 20 miles distant from the Mississippi, on the southern boundary of the neutral ground, to a point equally distant from that river, on the northern limit of the tract on the east, and the eastern branch of the Cedar creek on the west, with a right to hunt on the whole of it.

"The reasons assigned for treating with them immediately are: 1st. That the Winnebagoes are not content to go to, or to remain on, the neutral ground; and of this we have had unpleasant experience. But I have not understood it to be from dissatisfaction with the contracted limits of the district, so much as from disinclination to leave their old haunts in Wisconsin; and I attribute it as much to the malign influence of white men, who find their interest in dealing with these unfortunate beings, and too often in ardent spirits.

"The 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th reasons are substantially the same. The name 'neutral ground,' the shape of it, and its location, certainly support the allegation that it was intended as a barrier between the two tribes that ceded it; but I respectfully submit that there is no limitation or restriction upon the use of it expressed in the treaty, though there is the implied one that the Government of the United States would not apply it to any purpose inconsistent with the object of the grant. The clause to which the committee refer, and which runs thus, 'But it is understood that the lands ceded and relinquished by this treaty are to be assigned and allotted, under the direction of the President of the United States, to the tribes now living thereon, or to such other tribes as the President may locate thereon, for hunting and other purposes,' is to be found in the first article, and, it is believed, relates particularly to the large body of land west of the neutral ground, on the Missouri, ceded by that article; five millions of acres of which were granted to the united band of Chippewas, Ottowas, and Pottawatomies, by the treaty of Chicago. It is in immediate connexion with this, the principal cession; and, although the expression is loose—'the lands ceded,' &c.—yet it could scarcely be applicable to the neutral ground, in consistence with the grant; for to place upon it the

Sioux, and Sacs and Foxes, would bring into immediate contact the tribes that the cession of these strips of land is supposed to have intended to separate. If, however, I should be even mistaken in this construction, the restriction does not prohibit the use that has been made of this land. The President has, by the express terms of the limitation itself, the right to place upon the neutral ground any Indian tribe, for hunting 'and other purposes.' Any fair purpose, which did not defeat the design of the parties, was not against, but authorized by, the contract; and such a one existed in the ceding a part of this tract to the Winnebagoes, and locating them upon it 'until they shall procure a more permanent settlement.'

"I do not perceive how the occupancy, by the Winnebagoes, of this barrier between the Sioux, and Sacs and Foxes, interferes with the object of its establishment. The hostile tribes are not the less separated, but rather the more, by the interposition of a third people between them. I am not, therefore, of opinion that the United States has violated its faith with the Sioux, or Sacs and Foxes, in this particular. They have doubtless so alleged, and some hostile passes have taken place between each of them and the Winnebagoes; but, according to my information, there is no dissatisfaction at present on that score, nor have I heard that they, or either of them, have threatened to expel the Winnebagoes if they are not removed from it.

"The 6th reason is well founded, on the supposition that hostilities among the Indians will break out. There is no reason at present to apprehend such a calamity; and as little that it will arise out of the Winnebago occupancy of the neutral ground, as from any other cause.

"Having, according to what I understood to be your instructions, made the foregoing remarks, I must not be understood as conveying the idea that a treaty with the Winnebagoes, and their removal from the neutral ground, are not advisable. The contrary is my opinion; but it should, in my judgment, be done in reference to other projects, forming, as it and they do, parts of a general line of policy.

"It has been the intention of the department to establish a northern Indian territory. The region deemed most advisable for this purpose is Sioux land, for the cession of which a treaty was negotiated with them last year by Governor Doty, on behalf of the United States, which is now before the Senate for their constitutional action. The acquisition of this land is indispensable to the establishment of this northern settlement. The Winnebagoes, and other Indian tribes in that section of country, are averse to going southwest of the Missouri; and the future course of the department will depend materially upon the decision of the Senate.

"The great object is, while the country shall be opened to settlement and improvement by our own citizens, to benefit the Indians. This we cannot hope to do by the exercise of a humane and guardian care over them, while their lives are wandering, idle, and predatory—subject, as they are, in addition to all these disadvantages, to the still more deteriorating influence of white intercourse and illicit trade, which every effort seems to be ineffectual to control and prevent. Among the tribes most pressed by misfortune and their own improvidence, are the Winnebagoes. They are in a position understood to be but temporary when it was provided; they linger about the banks of the Mississippi, from which, having the right to hunt up to it, it is difficult to remove them. Here ardent spirits

are carried across the stream to them, or by themselves; and their condition is wretched, and growing worse. Until they are permanently settled, and the entire control of them is in the hands of Government agents, it cannot be expected that they will be improved, or their downward course even stayed. This, with the desire of the citizens of Iowa for their removal, constitute the reasons for treating with them, in my view; and I think them good ones.

"There must be every wish to comply with the request of the Legislature of Iowa, more especially as it appears to have been favorably considered by the Committee on Indian Affairs of the House of Representatives. The reasons for prompt action, as concerns the Territory of Iowa, do not, I confess, strike me as being so forcible as those which belong particularly to the distressed condition of the Winnebagoes. By looking at the map, it will be seen that the Sacs and Foxes occupy a very large and fertile tract of country, stretching from the northern line of Missouri to the neutral ground, and containing, by estimation, 10,000,000 of acres; while the latter contains but 4,121,600 acres, more or less, (of which the Winnebagoes own about 1,500,000,) and is north of the Sac and Fox country, which, it may be not unreasonably concluded, will be settled first. The latter ceded, the former would follow; both will, at a proper time, engage the anxious attention, as they have already done, of the Government. Neither, in my opinion, ought to be undertaken again until the great question of the northern settlement shall be settled by the decision of the Senate on the Sioux treaty. If that should be unfavorable, difficulties will be multiplied, if they do not become insuperable."

It is most probable the department would have been enabled to treat with this tribe of Indians for the relinquishment of their limited right upon the neutral ground, had it not been for the restrictions contained in a resolution of the Senate on the subject of the payment of debts; which is referred to and explained in the correspondence between this committee and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which is herewith published, and made a part of this report. The views expressed by Governor Chambers, in his report to the Indian Department, of the reasons of his failure to make a treaty, are confirmed by the recent representations of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory, in their memorial for a change of the trade and intercourse laws generally; and they are again reiterated by Governor Chambers, in his letter to the delegate, enclosing the memorial.

These facts, in our opinion, clearly show the right of the Winnebagoes upon the neutral ground was intended to be not only limited in extent, but temporary in duration; that they should, before this time, have procured themselves a permanent home with the annuities which are constantly accruing to them; that they have failed to do so, and will continue to fail in the accomplishment of that object; that, under the circumstances, justice to the citizens of the Territory, and to the Indian tribes in the vicinity, if not to the Winnebagoes themselves, requires their removal; that no concessions should be made to the traders, by the repeal of the resolution against the payment of their claims; and that a resort to force should not be adopted, until another trial is made to remove them by peaceable means.

In these opinions the committee unanimously concur.

COMMITTEE ROOM INDIAN AFFAIRS,
February 17, 1844.

SIR: I am charged by the Committee on Indian Affairs with the duty of reporting upon the application of the Legislature of the Territory of Iowa for the removal of the Winnebagoes from the neutral ground, upon which they have a right to hunt by virtue of the treaty of 1837. From the examination which I have thus far given the subject, I am fully convinced of the propriety of their removal, as an act of justice to the people of the Territory, not at all inconsistent with the true and lasting interests of the Indians. There are, however, almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of effecting the consummation of this desirable object. It was hoped it might be accomplished by treaty; and Congress, as you are aware, made an appropriation for the purpose. Subsequently, a resolution was passed prohibiting, among other things, the payment of debts in any future negotiation. Of this resolution you gave Governor Chambers notice in your letter of instruction of the 5th May last. To this resolution he attributes his failure to accomplish a treaty, on account of the consequent interference of interested traders. In fact, he predicts that, under the operation of that resolution, *no* further treaty will ever be effected with any tribe of Indians with which licensed traders are to be found, without their interest is consulted in some other form than that to which they have been accustomed. It would seem, then, that this provision must be repealed, or the only alternative presented by Governor Chambers, in his report, is, that "Government will probably be involved in the necessity of chastising and removing the Winnebagoes by military force, at a heavy expense of blood and treasure." For myself, I should dislike to make any concession to those engaged in furnishing the Indians with ardent spirits, and who are thereby becoming the cause of almost all their present woes; yet I should incline to the repeal of the resolution in question, rather than resort to the use of military force for their removal. The latter means could hardly be justified, even by the laudable end in view.

I know you have given this, as well as all subjects connected with the welfare of the Indians, much consideration and reflection. You have referred to the peculiar condition of the Winnebagoes in your able report for the last year; but there is no specific recommendation which will accomplish the wishes set forth in the memorial of the Legislature, and strongly enforced by the representations of the delegate from the Territory. The object, therefore, of this hasty communication is to ask the assistance of your experience and advice as to the best course to be pursued in legislating upon this application. Any suggestions which you may feel at liberty to make will be thankfully received and respectfully considered.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

B. A. BIDLACK.

Hon. THOS. H. CRAWFORD,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, February 26, 1844.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive, on the 19th instant, your communication of the 17th, relative to "the application of the Legislature of the Territory of Iowa for the removal of the Winnebagoes from the neutral ground, upon which they have a right to hunt by the treaty of 1837." My opinion is asked "as to the best course to be pursued in legislating upon this application."

By the treaty of September 15, 1832, (article 2,) the neutral ground, from the Mississippi river as far west as the eastern branch of the Red Cedar creek, was granted to the Winnebago nation, to be "held as other Indian lands are held," in part consideration of a cession, in the first article of the same treaty, of a much larger body of land, by the Winnebagoes, to the United States; for which, besides the grant of land mentioned, we have paid, and are now paying, annually, large sums of money to the Winnebagoes.

The treaty of November 1, 1837, ceded all the Winnebago lands east of the Mississippi river to the United States. The second article is in these words: "The said Indians further agree to relinquish the right to occupy, except for the purpose of hunting, a portion of the land held by them west of the Mississippi, included between that river and a line drawn from a point twenty miles distant therefrom, on the southern boundary of the neutral ground, to a point equidistant from the said river on the northern boundary thereof." The third article stipulates that the Indians shall remove "to that portion of the neutral ground west of the Mississippi which was conveyed to them in the second article of the treaty of September 21st, [15th] 1832; and the United States agree that the said Indians may hunt upon the western part of said neutral ground until they shall procure a permanent settlement."

It is thus apparent that the Winnebago Indians have not only the usual Indian title to the neutral ground, but it is (not a case by itself, yet) the not common case of an Indian tribe holding land by express treaty-grant and conveyance. It is perhaps not better, but it certainly is not worse, as against us, than the ordinary tenure of immemorial occupancy. They were not expected to remain there very long, for some other spot was looked to as their "permanent settlement;" but it was a settlement "*they shall procure*," not we for them. Have they procured it? No. Have they made any new arrangement with us, by which we have acquired the right to assign them a new location, or to dispossess them, against their will, of the portion of the neutral ground we conveyed to them? No.

The simple inquiry is, Have we, in existing circumstances, a justification for enforcing the removal of the Winnebagoes from the land granted them? It will be a compelled removal, although no blood may be shed. If you surround the 2,100 to 2,200 souls that make up the whole Winnebago tribe, by soldiers, they will go where you please without striking a blow, unless it be by stealth; but it will be as constrained a removal as if you pricked each of them with a bayonet at every step. Such a removal, in my judgment, would be as unwise and impolitic as it would be illegal, and, of consequence, inexcusable. The Winnebagoes are a degraded, intemperate, vagabond race, who would be benefited greatly by a change of residence—and advantage would flow from it, too, to the Ter-

ritory of Iowa, and our good citizens living there; but it cannot be disguised that we have immoral, bad citizens near those Indians, without whose total disregard of every duty in their traffic with the Winnebagoes, the latter could not procure whiskey, or waste their money and property to their destruction. That these Indians are declining and becoming daily more and more degraded, is, I believe, too true; but it is the cruel work of white men. That, in their drunken brawls, they destroy each other, and sometimes white men, is the result of the trade of the latter with them, who occasionally suffer from the hands of the very Indians they have crazed by ardent spirits.

Nothing, in my opinion, will justify us to the world, or (which is of even greater consequence) to ourselves, in the compulsory removal of an Indian tribe from land they hold by occupancy, feeble though the tenure be, but necessity, actual and real—a state of war, for instance—or the existence of such a state of things as made the safety of our citizens, in their persons and property, inconsistent with the continuance of the red man where he is. I have not the slightest reason for believing that we could find an excuse in things as they are, for any violence done upon the Winnebagoes.

I have no doubt it would be beneficial to the Indians to be removed from their present location; they would gain more by such a step than the citizens of Iowa. This, however, they do not believe, or will not admit; and there is but one course to pursue, in any view I have been able to take of this matter—that is, to renew the negotiations, and make further efforts to treat with the Indians. If some of the people in and about Prairie du Chien, and near the Winnebagoes, who are so anxious for their removal, will only aid the United States in their exertions to effect an object that all profess to have in view, their wishes can be gratified without delay. The obstructions that are more or less placed in the way of Government, in all its Indian negotiations, are supposed to be as difficult to overcome here as elsewhere, and may defeat the future attempts of the department, as they have often done those of times past.

The department has at its command $2,795 66, being the balance of an appropriation for treating with the Winnebagoes and the Sacs and Foxes.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

Hon. B. A. Bidlack,
House of Representatives U. S.

War Department,
Office Indian Affairs, March 21, 1844.

Sir: With reference to the conversation had with you this morning, I have the honor to inform you that there is a balance of former appropriations, of two thousand nine hundred and sixty-one dollars in the treasury, that can be applied in negotiating with the Winnebagoes, which sum would be sufficient for that purpose; but as it is thought it will be indispensable to make a treaty with the Sioux for a portion of their country on which to locate the Winnebagoes if a treaty is made with the latter, a further sum of $2,000 will be required. I have therefore the honor to request that you will offer an amendment to some bill before the House of Representatives,

asking for that sum, "for negotiating with the Winnebago and Sioux Indians." The Sioux are wild uncultivated savages, who must be fed while we are negotiating with them, and while on their way to the council, and will expect some presents of tobacco, ammunition, &c.; and hence the request for an additional sum.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. BIDLACK,
House of Representatives.