

ACCOUNT
OF THE
CHIPPEWA INDIANS,

WHO HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING AMONG THE WHITES,

IN THE

UNITED STATES, ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND,
FRANCE AND BELGIUM;

WITH VERY INTERESTING INCIDENTS IN RELATION TO THE GENERAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ENGLISH, IRISH, SCOTCH, FRENCH,
AND AMERICANS, WITH REGARD TO THEIR HOSPI-
TALITY, PECULIARITIES, ETC.

WRITTEN BY MAUNGWUDAUS,

The Self-Taught Indian of the Chippewa Nation, for the benefit of his youngest
Son, called Noodinokay, whose Mother died in England.

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1848.

ACCOUNT OF THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

I WILL not ask the reader for pardon. The short notice of me on another page will induce him to excuse me for using improperly the English language.

We left the shores of Lake Huron in the year 1843, visited Detroit city, Cleaveland, Buffalo city, Utica, Albany, New York city and other towns. Left New York city on the first day of March for England with the ship called Victoria; landed in England, called Portsmouth, on the 26th of the same month. While on the sea our middle mast got blown away. The waves were like mountains; we did not get sea-sick, only got little hurt sometimes when thrown out of our berths. Sometime got a good ducking with salt water by the waves, pouring into our cabin. The flour and corn barrels got loose and knocked against one another and spilt all that was inside of them. The rats had great feasting. Every night after they had their bellies full were very mischievous; they helped the waves in tormenting us, by biting us on our toes and noses. The sea in the night was like the blaze of fire.

We landed at Portsmouth on the 26th of the same month. Portsmouth is a great place for ships. We went to see Lord Nelson's war-ship and saw the place where he fell when he was killed. The officers living in this sea-house were very kind to us. The great sea-war chief took us into the navy yard where they are making many war ships. Another war chief invited us and showed us all his warriors under him in the barracks.

From Portsmouth we went to London, and we remained a long time in this wonderful city; performed every day in the Egyptian Hall, in Piccadilly. This city is about ten miles broad, but some parts of it is about twenty miles long. Like musketoes in America in the summer season, so are the people in this city, in their numbers, and biting one another to get a living. Many very rich, and many very poor; about 900 berths and about 1100 deaths every week in this city alone. There

are many stone and iron bridges over the river Thames. The steamboats in this river are not so handsome as those in America. The St. Paul's church and the Council House are very large buildings indeed. Most of the houses are rather dark in color on account of too much smoke.

Many ladies and gentlemen ride about in carriages. The carriages, servants and horses are covered with gold and silver. Hundreds of them walk about in the parks, the servants leading little dogs behind them to air them. The English women cannot walk alone; they must always be assisted by the men. They make their husbands carry their babies for them when walking.

Mr. Harris took us into the Queen's house. She is a small woman but handsome. There are many handsomer women than she is. Prince Albert is a handsome and well built man. Her house is large, quiet country inside of it. We got tired before we went through all the rooms in it. Great many warriors with their swords and guns stands outside watching for the enemy. We have been told that she has three or four other houses in other places as large. The one we saw they say is too small for her, and they are building a much larger one on one side of it.

When she goes out she has a great many warriors before and behind, guarding her; most of them seven feet tall. Their coats and caps are of steel; long white horse-hair waves on their heads. They wear long boots, long gloves, and white buckskin breeches. Their swords, guns, and everything about them are kept very clean and bright. Their horses are all black, and much silver and gold about them. They do not shave the upper part of their mouths, but let the beards grow long, and this makes them look fierce and savage like our American dogs when carrying black squirrels in their mouths.

The nobility and ministers and the Society of Friends invited us most every day to take tea with them. Sometimes we were about two hours in eating; the plates, knives, forks, spoons and everything we used in eating were of gold and silver. The servants' heads were white powdered; they gave us many handsome presents, and caused us to see many things that others have never seen. We went to hear Lord John Russell and Sir R. Peel talk in the council; went also in the lower house and saw and heard the speakers in it. We were kindly invited to dine with Daniel O'Connell. He was very kind to us. We went through the tunnel under the bed of the river Thames. The ships were sailing over us while walking below.

Our war-chief shot a buck in the Park, through the heart, and fell down dead three hundred yards, before four thousand

ladies and gentlemen. This was done to amuse them. Travelling on the Great Western Railway, the Engine knocked down several rooks or crows while flying over the railway. We saw three men out of the Zoological Gardens going up to the country of stars. They had something very large in the shape of a bladder over their heads: they called it a balloon. One man said to us, "You see now that we Englishmen can go and see the upper world with our bodies." Lord Bloomfield invited us to see the big guns at Woolwich; three of us got inside of one of them.

They say that there are eighty thousand common wives in the City of London. They say that they are allowed to walk in the streets every night for the safety of the married women. The English officers invited us to eat with them in the barracks in our native costume. When the tea got ready, the ladies were brought to the table like sick women; it took us about two hours in eating. The ladies were very talkative while eating; like ravens when feasting on venison. Indeed, they have a proverb which says, "Thieves and robbers eat and drink a little, and make no noise when they eat." They are very handsome; their waists, hands and feet are very small; their necks are rather longer than those of our women. They carry their heads on one side of the shoulder; they hold the knife and fork with the two forefingers and the thumb of each hand; the two last ones are of no use to them, only sticking out like our fish-spears, while eating.

The English officers are fine, noble, and dignified looking fellows. The voice of them when coming out of the mouth, sounds like the voice of a bull-frog. The only fault we saw of them, are their too many unnecessary ceremonies while eating, such as, allow me Sir, or Mrs. to put this into your plate. If you please Sir, thank you, you are very kind Sir, or Mrs. can I have the pleasure of helping you?

Many of the Englishmen have very big stomachs, caused by drinking too much ale and porter. Those who drink wine and brandy, their noses look like ripe strawberries.

When we got ready to leave, one of the officers said to us, our ladies would be glad to shake hands with you, and we shook hands with them. Then they were talking amongst themselves; then another officer said to us, "Friends, our ladies think that you do not pay enough respects to them, they desire you to kiss them; then we kissed them according to our custom on both cheeks. "Why! they have kissed us on our cheeks; what a curious way of kissing this is." Then another officer said to us, "Gentlemen, our pretty squaws are not yet satisfied; they want to be kissed on their mouths." Then we

kissed them on their mouths; then there was great shout amongst the English war-chiefs. Say-say-gon, our war-chief, then said in our language to the ladies; "That is all you are good for; as for wives, you are good for nothing." The ladies wanted me to tell them what the war-chief said to them. I then told them that he said he was wishing the officers would invite him very often, that he might again kiss the handsome ladies. Then they said, "Did he? then we will tell our men to invite you again, for we like to be kissed very often; tell him so." They put gold rings on our fingers and gold pins on our breasts, and when we had thanked them for their kindness, we got in our carriage and went to our apartments.

The great war-chief with the big nose, Duke of Wellington, invited us, and he was very kind to us in his house. He and his son gave us handsome presents.

Sir Augustus d'Este, cousin to the Queen, son of the Duke of Sussex, invited us very often to take tea with him. He is a great friend to the Indians; he introduced us to many of his friends. This great man is an invalid, and not able to walk alone.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Cathedral was very kind to us; he showed us everything in the Cathedral, curious and wonderful works of the ancient Britons. He said that this building is thirteen hundred years old. This is the most curious, the largest, and beautiful one we have seen. The top of its steeple our arrows could not reach.

We went to see Dover; we went through the subterraneous roads in the Rocks.

We went to France; stayed five months in Paris with Catlin's Indian Curiosities. Shook hands with Louis Phillippe and all his family in the Park, called St. Cloud; gave them little war dance, shooting with bows and arrows at a target, ball play; also rowed our birch bark canoe in the artificial lake, amongst swans and geese. There were about four thousand French ladies and gentlemen with them. We dined with him in the afternoon in his Palace. He said many things concerning his having been in America when he was a young man. He gave us twelve gold and silver medals; he showed us all the rooms in his house.

The French ladies are handsome, very gay in their dresses, both men and women. Many of the gentlemen never shave their faces; this makes them look as if they had no mouths. Others wear beards only on the upper part of their mouths, which makes them look as if they had black squirrel's tails sticking on each side of their mouths.

Monsieur Lafontaine, the great mesmeriser, invited us to see

him perform. He gave us a needle to stick those he made sleep, and we pulled the needle through their eye-brows, and between the big thumb and finger, and they knew nothing about it. He caused the young lady to put her arms around our necks, and kissed us, saying at the same time, "My dear." We left some of the paint on her cheeks that was on our faces.

Another French gentleman made moulds of plaster paris from our heads; some of our young men got frightened. Louis Phillippe ordered Mons. J. Gudin to paint our likenesses on a large sheet of canvass, and when it was done, he took it to his Palace.

The country in France is like our prairies; the fields are not divided with hedges and stone walls.

The common wives are very numerous in Paris; some of them are called "industrious fleas."

Mrs. Catlin and one of their youngest children died in Paris. She was a very kind lady, of Albany.

From Paris we went to Brussels. The king of this country was very kind to us. The Belgians are like the French. Here poor Aunimuckwuh-tim and Mishimaung died with the small pox; and after we visited other towns on the borders of Germany, we returned to London again; and here our much respected war-chief, Say-say-gon, died with the same dreadful disease that the others had died with. These three men would not allow the white doctors to vaccinate them. They said that we were very foolish to place ourselves in the care of the whites;—ourselves were saved by this simple remedy, through the kindness of our friends the Quakers.

While in Ipswich we visited Thomas Clarkson, Esq., He was very glad to see us, though he was very ill; his kind daughter gave us a good dinner and handsome presents. This great and good man died soon after we left him.

At Norwich, J. J. Gurney, Esq. the great man of the Quakers, invited us to his house called Earlham. He and his wife, of Philadelphia, also his son, gave us rich presents. This great man died while we were in Scotland; his horse fell down with him.

While we were in Norwich, we saw one man killed; he was killed for killing a woman at Yarmouth for a little money. Many thousand people got together where the man was to be killed, before a large stone house, on a high hill, long time before the appointed hour arrived. Then they brought the man out they wanted to kill; they made him to stand on a platform with a strong cord around his neck, and when the teacher of wisdom and Christian religion had prayed for him, they pulled down his white cap over his face, and also fastened one end of

the cord that was round his neck on a beam over his head. Then another man slipped down the platform he was standing on; he dropped down a little, and was hanging in the air with the cord that was round his neck, his hands tied together behind his back. Then he began to kick and twist about for life, and one of the murderers ran down and caught hold of his legs and pulled him down, and very soon killed him. They said that he was not fit to live on earth, but they believed that he is gone to the happy country in the other world, where he will be out of mischief forever.

We went through Sheffield, Manchester, and many other towns between them,—saw many good people and wonderful things.

From Liverpool to Dublin city, we went to see Father Mathew. We performed in the Rotunda, also in the Zoological Gardens; each evening had three thousand people to see us; went to south and back again to north, Belfast and Londonderry. The Irish are very kind-hearted people. The country people make fire of turf; many of them are very poor; the British government is over them.

We crossed to Scotland and landed at the place called Adrosson; we went to see R. Burns's cottage, small, with straw-roof. We went to see Wallace's Oak Tree near Paisely; went to Glasgow and Edinburgh. Edinburgh is large of the Scotch people; the new town is very handsome, but the old town is rather filthy. All the dirt is thrown in the streets before people get up, and carts take it away, but still the smell of it is most offensive all day. One of the chiefs told us that a Scotchman some years ago, who was born in the city, was away from it for some years, and returning to it he said, "There is nothing like home;" and when he began to smell the streets, he said, "Ah! sweet auld Edinburgh, I smell thee now." The Scotch chiefs showed us the Crown of Scotland in the Castle, also the Palace. We went to see about seventy young men, who are to be medicine men. They had thirty dead bodies, and they were skinning and cutting them same as we do with venison.

The Scotch people are very religious and industrious, very kind-hearted to strangers. They keep Sunday very strictly. A great many are teetotalers; their country is mountainous. The old men and women are very fond of snuff; they carry it in rams horns; they put one spoonful of it in each nostril at a time; this causes their words to sound nasal, something like pig grunting.

At Glasgow, two of my children died, another in Edinburgh; buried them in the burying-ground of our friends the Quakers; and after we visited other towns at the North and South, we

went to England again ; my wife died at Newark. The vicar of that church was very kind to us, in allowing us to bury her remains near the church.

Riding through a town in our native costume, we saw a monkey performing in the street upon a music box, about fifty young men looking at him. He was dressed like a man. When the young men saw us, they began to make fun of us, and made use of very insulting language, making a very great noise ;—at the same time when the monkey saw us he forgot his performances, and while we were looking at him, he took off his red cap and made a bow to us. A gentleman standing by, said to the audience, " Look at the monkey take off his cap and make a bow in saluting those strangers ; which of the two the strangers will think are most civilized, you or the monkey ? You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. You may consider yourselves better and wiser than those strangers, but you are very much mistaken. Your treatment to them tells them that you are not, and you are so foolish and ignorant, you know nothing about it. I have been travelling five years amongst these people in their own country, and I never, not once, was insulted, but I was always kindly treated and respected by every one of them. Their little children have far better manners than you. Young men, the monkey pays you well for all the pennies you have given him ; he is worthy to become your teacher." We then threw some money to the monkey, and he jumped down from his platform and picked up the money and jumped up again, and put the money into his master's mouth, and he made another bow to us as we were going away ; at the same time heard one of the young men saying to his friends, " See the teacher making another bow to the Indians." " Yes," said another, " this is to teach you, for you are the very one that was making fun and blackguarding the Indians."

We visited New Castle upon Tyne, Hull, Leeds, York, Birmingham, and many other Towns ; visited Shakspeare's house and his grave at Stratford on Avon. We visited Lord Byron's house. Col. Wildman was very kind to us ; went to Nottingham and to London again.

We left London on the 23d of April, 1848, with the ship called Yorktown, of New York. Capt. Seba was very kind to us all the way. Sixteen children of the Germans died on the way ; also an English lady. Ourselves did not get sea sick. The waves were like mountains ; saw seven whales and many porpoises ; landed in New York city on the 4th of June, and we were very thankful to the Great Spirit for bringing us back again to America.

On the voyage Capt. Seba was very careful that there was

no smoking with pipes and cigars inside the ship, drinking fire-water; quarrelling and fighting he prohibited, but when the sea had been very rough for two or three days, the English and the Germans had little fighting, because there was no room for all their teapots in the cooking place; but no one got much hurt, only a few faces got little cut and scratched, and afterwards received four or five blows of rope by the powerful chief mate on their backs.

He allowed the religious minister to preach in the cabin every Sunday. Every few days we had the inside of the ship cleaned; outside, every day, that there might be no sickness among us. He was like a father to us; all the sailors loved him and were very obedient to him.

When the sun could be seen he would look at it with a little glass, curiously constructed with brass; and by this he could tell us where and how far we were from England and America. Sometimes he would get one of his men to sink a piece of lead with a long cord, some tallow on the bottom of it, and when it was hoisted up, there was sand on the tallow, and he, by looking at it and seeing its color, he knew exactly where we were, he received much wisdom by looking at the sun and the sand.

He also had something in a glass tube look like melted lead, by which, in looking at it, he could always tell when the storm was coming, and had the ship ready for it. He is very good as well as a great man.

In Ipswich we dined with our friends the Quakers, about sixty in number; their names are Alexanders and Ransoms. After we had eaten many good things and all the plates taken away, a small round but high cheese was put on the table, and one of the oldest Friends said to us, "Now, friends, this is our English cheese; the poor of our people cannot afford to eat this. We never think that our dinner is finished until we have ate some of it; will thou have little of it; I said yes. Will thou have little of it, &c., until every one of us had it before us, and we ate much of it, because it was from our friends. When our eating was over, a doctor, whose name is F. W. Johnson, placed on the table, what he calls microscope; it had three brass legs and a small glass to it, and when he had put a very small bit of the cheese we had to eat on a clean plate, he made us look at it through the little glass that was on the three legged brass, and we saw hundreds of worms moving in it. This made all our friends laugh, and we tried to laugh too, but we were very much frightened at the same time knowing that we must have swallowed thousands of them. When our friends saw that we were frightened, the medicine man dropped one

drop of rain water in a clear glass, and he made us look at it again through the little glass, and we saw hundreds of living creatures swimming in it; some like beasts, some like snakes, some like fish, some had horns and some had no horns, some with legs and some had no legs; some had wheels on each side of their bodies, and with these they were moving about like steamboats, hooking, chasing, fighting, killing and eating one another. Then one of our oldest friends said to us, "Now, friends, you must not think that this is the first time you have been eating worms. We swallow thousands of them every day either with food or water. They are floating in the air, and we inhale them, when we draw breath; thousands of them are also floating in our veins. The Great Spirit, who made us and all other beings is wonderful in power and wisdom. We sincerely hope that you will at all times love him, and obey what he tells you in your hearts." We waited two or three days for the worms to bite. Sometimes we would be looking for them, thinking that they might have grown larger while they were in our bodies, but we did not feel their bites nor saw any of them. We have oftentimes been thinking since, that our friends must be something like bears, who loves to eat living worms or maggots.

Since the 4th of June we have visited many towns between New York and Boston; went to see Plymouth Rock, where our forefathers first saw the white men; saw the stone first touched by white man's foot; went in the Pilgrim Hall. The Americans have been very kind to us in all places; they are not so fleshy as the English, but very persevering in all their ways. They pay more respect to their females than the English, and they like to see things belong to others without leave. The working classes of the English call their rich men "Big Bugs," but the Yankee call them, "Top Notches." They put their feet upon tables, chairs, and chimney pieces when smoking their cigars or reading newspapers. They are not so much slaves to their civilization as the English; they like to be comfortable, something like ourselves, placing one leg upon the other knee, while basking ourselves in the sun. A real comfort is better than an artificial one to the human nature.

The Mayors of all the cities and towns of this country are very kind in allowing us to make use of their Town Halls and Court Houses.

Maungwudaus is the son of Pishikay, who, with other chiefs, sold much land to the British Government, in the western parts of Canada. Maungwudaus is a self-taught man; he learnt the English language, to read and write after he was

married. He was born and brought up in the wilderness, and never lived in a house but in a wigwam; and often for many months without anything over his head in the summer and winter. He is most uncommonly intelligent and kind-hearted man; the best interpreter the government and the missionaries ever have had. His father and grandfather were great men. His grandfather's name was Aindussing Aunuckwodt; he died and was buried on Grand River, about two miles above the village called Galt, in the township of Dumfries, in Canada West. William Heating, Esquire, Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

The Chippewas inhabit all the northern country; the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior; through the wilderness to Hudson Bay, and the branches of the Mississippi, near the Rocky Mountains; their number is not yet known; they are the most powerful of all the Indian nation's chiefs; they never fight against each other, but always assist each other. Many of them in Canada and Michigan are now becoming Christians. They are very intelligent, well formed, and most of the men are more than six feet tall. They live in wigwams, and travel with snow-shoes in the winter. They pay great respect to the old people; kind to those that are in distress, and never make fun of strangers. Capt. Thomas Smith has lived fifty years among them.

PLEASING TESTIMONY OF GEORGE CATLIN, ESQ.

At parting with Maungwudaus and his sons, I take great pleasure in furnishing them with the expression of my attachment to them, and of my anxiety for their success and welfare, wherever they may hereafter travel.

They have been constantly with me for the space of three years, during which time they have been constantly sober, and well disposed towards each other, and in their conduct perfectly complaisant and respectful to the world around them.

From these facts, and the other, that they are a great way from their native country, and unprotected, among strangers, I feel it to be my duty to make a strong appeal to those who may become acquainted with them for their kindness in their behalf.

GEO. CATLIN.

London, April 20, 1848.