

The war broke out at Yellow Medicine^[2] in the Western part of the State. Since that time it has spread north to Red River sweeping everything before it - men, women, children, cattle horses, and every sort of plunder, burning buildings and destroying whatever was too burdensome to carry away. At Red River they besieged Fort Abercrombie for days and days, but still the heroic little band held them at bay until reinforcements arrived. It is still a place of danger as there are known to be a thousand Sioux warriors in that vicinity. The war has spread on toward the Mississippi in the direction of Forest City, Payneville and Monticello.

The loss of life in the state is already more than a thousand by actual calculation and the loss of property immense. Thousands are leaving their homes and fleeing, destitute and homeless, to some point of safety.

Thus far the East side of the Mississippi has been unmolested, but should the Chippewas rise, which is almost momentarily expected, we shall all be in danger. They are all around us and among us, so to speak. The Millers' band are

[3]

on Rum River about 30 miles from Anoka. They await orders from their chief.

Meanwhile, our governor has been sending commissioners to treat with them. They have been defrauded of their rights and if not speedily redressed, will visit the innocent settlers with terrible vengeance.

Last night Gov. Ramsey with some six or eight of his leading men passed through here on their way to the Chippewa Agency to treat with Hole-in-the-day.

Mrs. Sulphur will leave if nothing is done in the coming week.

I shall not! I can't shoot very well but I can make cartridges.

If I could only scalp one of their men, I'd give something.

No more this time. Yours in haste,
Mary.