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To His Excellency Governor
 Alexander Ramsey Governor of Minnesota
 The object of this work is to give a
 short history or reminiscences of the authors
 first travels from the State of New York
 to the Minnesota country in the year
 1829 April 19th I left my native place
 Phelps town Ontario county at this time
 my brother J. W. Prescott was living at Detroit
 Michigan territory clerking in the Settlers Store
 for the Troops my brother wrote me to come
 to Detroit and assist him in the Store and
 accordingly I left home on the above date my
 sisters prepared a large bundle of provisions
 and the hour for starting came and many
 tears fell from the eyes of my beloved Sisters
 they said they never expected to see me again and
 one of them never did have the pleasure of seeing
 me again as she died a few years after I left home
 I was young being in my 18th year and the
 the project pleased me much of getting to
 see the great west but my relatives did
 not approve of my leaving them particularly
 my sisters as they were alone almost one
 brother only with whom they lived our parents
 were both dead and we were compelled to
~~separate~~ ^{separate} and work for a livelihood I finally
 mustered up courage and extended my hand
 for a final and affectionate farewell it was
 a trying time but I shouldered my pack and
 started on foot and the first day came
 to Canandaigua and put up for the night
 weary and my feet badly blistered

1820

1765 E

from using a pump for the boats
in the morning I was much distressed
and more than once thought of turning
back but the thoughts of seeing the great
West and the Indians and great lakes inspired
me with new courage and I set out again on
foot and the 14th day I arrived at Buffalo
but found the ice still in the lake and
had to remain or wait on the Steam boat until
the first of May I had but little money so I went
down to Black rock and went to work for my board
until the steamer should leave for Detroit. The
little sum of money that I had to spend was
only just enough to pay for the voyage therefore
I was compelled to live poor and work when
I could find anything to do. here I will relate
a little circumstance about a relative of mine
Mr Nathan Rud, the Bible tells us that
we are in want not to go to a brother for help
for more likely than not you will be refused
but a friend is far better than a relative in
this case Mr Rud who was my uncle on
my Mother's side refused to loan me a few dollars
in money to take me through the journey although
he was well off and had a plenty and to spare
and in this case I found the lesson in scripture
had fallen upon me but I bore it all patiently
and persevered and on the first day of May
1819 I embarked on board the Steam boat Wells
in the water the first steamer that was built
on Lake Erie in 1818 the steamer did not start
until after noon there a large number of passengers
were on board some of whom were
directed to a long house and they with the
Engine took us over the Rapids at the

* firstly The Lady after going through a
series of questions from the father she declared
and positively that she had not sought
any interview with the Man but that
he was the aggressor and that she had done
nothing wrong on her part The Man said
her testimony was correct but he had
fallen in love with the girl and wanted
to marry her So the Lady came off innocent
and with flying colors and the Man
by making an honest confession got off
as above stated

foot of the lake ice there was a considerable
 ice flat in the lake the weather was
 fine and calm and we had a pleasant voyage
 except the first night the ice was still thick and
 in large pieces and when the boat would strike
 one of them it would startle all the passengers
 with the crashing noise. the 2^d night we
 were all suddenly called to witness a sad
 incident that was a man fell over and was
 dragged a piece of the railing on the Starboard
 side of the boat and in front of the wheel
 was left unfastened and the man leaned a-
 -gainst and the gear slipped out and the ^{man} went
 overboard and it supposed the wheel struck him and
 very likely killed him. the steamer was stopped and
 a boat was lowered in search of the man but
 nothing was found but his hat. the remainder
 of the trip nothing of note transpired. but I will
 assure you we had some sober looking faces
 for a day or two after the accident and no doubt
 made many feel how uncertain is life and that every
 day we should prepare for the morrow for we know
 not what a day may bring forth as soon as
 the steamer walked in the water landed I went to
 the clerk and told him my situation and had
 not money enough to pay my passage he said I ought
 to have him before leaving port I told him my father
 was living in town and had means to pay my passage
 and that I would go and get that amount he the
 clerk said my passage was seven dollars for a
 storage passage so I started and found my brother
 and got money enough to settle my bill and
 all more satisfied although I had slipped without
 notifying the clerk or captain I had forgot

one little circumstance that took place on
 ship board it was a love scrap a young
 girl in the stowage passage had been courted
 by a man passenger in the same cabin but it
 appeared that the girls parents were not know-
 -ing to the courtship but the father accidentally
 caught them in some corner of the ship and immediately
 took the man to task for courting his daughter without
 his consent and finally they got to high words
 and loud talk which brought quite a number
 of passengers listening to the conversation finally the
 captain was called upon to settle the difficulty and
 after inquiring into the matter he found that nothing
 of a criminal nature had been done he fined the man
 a treat to as many of the passengers as were standing
 about so the man agreed the captain's decision
 and went brought out his bottle and treated all
 that wanted to drink but the captain told him that
 if he was caught troubling the women again he
 should be compelled to put him on shore this seemed
 to have the desired effect as there was nothing more
 seen or heard about courting on the boat during
 the remainder of the trip My brother informed
 me that Troops had received orders to move
 to the west and occupy the forts on the
 Mississippi Rock Island Prairie du Chien
 and to build a new fort on the reserve in-
 cluding the lands of St Anthony this reservation
 was purchased by Genl J. M. Pike in
 the years 1804 & 5 from the Mdawakanton
 Sioux the troops had already moved
 and my brother was packing up the last of
 the goods belonging to the father Mr Louis
 P. Drotier and making preparations to follow

in a few days so I found employment
 for a few days assisting to pack goods for the
 use of the troops. My brother left about
 the first of June a man by the name of
 Belcher another clerk had started with
 the troops in a few days after Mr
 Devotion the proprietor left Detroit for
 New York to get a new stock of goods
 for to supply the troops for the winter.
 I was then left alone with one man a
 servant of Mr Devotions by the name
 of Thomas Hogan an Irish man not
 having much to do in the store the most
 of the goods having been packed and sent off.
 I had time to study and I used the most
 of my time at my arithmetic. Now and
 then I used to walk about the city and
 particularly along the river and look at the
 shot holes in the store houses along the levee
 that was thrown across from the British
 side in the time of the last war and then
 did I then think of getting acquainted with
 the Sioux Indians and that I should learn
 from them that they several of them participated
 in the war on the part of the British and many
 a barbarous story they told me about the
 cruelties of the other tribes and their treatment
 of the whites their women and children.
 I have left my history a little and now come back
 again and state as was walking out one
 Sunday to church with our man or servant
 as people may choose to call them the family
 that I boarded with saw me walking with

with the hired Man and when I went
 in to dinner the old lady of the house
 set at me and gave me a great lecture
 for going in company with such a Man
 the family's name was O'Brien some
 old cooking French but of the first class
 of people but the wars had ruined
 them hard they had lost nearly all they had
 and they were then keeping a few boards
 at five dollars for week to make a poor
 and scanty living. I did not find out
 the real cause of the old Lady's lecturing
 me for some days but the signal worked
 out after a while and it was because
 I went to the Roman Catholic Church
 with our servant that I got a reprimand
 the old lady & husband were protestants and
 the old lady saw our servant was a
 deserter from the British and went on
 and abused him terribly behind his back
 I swallowed the whole patiently and
 kept it all to myself and after that walked
 alone in the day time but evenings I would
 get into a canoe and take a little sail
 on the Detroit and some times go as
 far as the Canada side and back and
 the last time I tried to take a sail on the
 river got myself and Man into little
 difficulty about the Boat that we were
 to have I had asked a gentleman by the
 name of Dorr for the use of a boat that
 was lying in front of the Commissary's Store
 the Dorr was quite Master otherwise
 contractor for Beef & several other things

and used the government boats whenever
 he wanted to move his provisions with
 he told us we could use one of the boats.
 So about dark I and our Man went down
 to the Wharf to take a boat and all at once
 we were hailed by some person near the
 Commissary Store. We looked round and saw
 a Soldier coming towards us and halloied
 aloud as he could and wanted to
 know what we were doing with the
 with the boats. We told him that Mr
 Dorr had loaned us one for to take a little
 sail on the river ok and by Sabers I
 will let you know that Mr Dorr
 nor yourselves has any right to take
 any of those boats, that order and threat
 came out in the full Irish tongue and
 said you are to stay under guard
 untill I send for an officer and took
 his Maskit from his shoulder and stood
 in a threatning posture so if we moved
 he could be ready to fire on us and he even
 need halloying for the Sergeant of the guard
 there we were compelled to stand about one
 hour before the officer of the day could
 be found and get a hearing of the
 case and no doubt our Irish Centinel
 was quite happy to get a chance to show
 a little authority over an American tho
 I know to be a fact from Experience
 and have seen others in the power of the
 Irish Soldier, they not only carry the
 Curo to the utmost Extent and are

very insolent to a protestant prison
 and they ought not to be entrusted for
 soldiers for they know very little about
 the use of fire arms and as they are
 entrusted for four years it takes them
 the whole term to learn the use of fire
 arms and there is more drunkenness and
 disturbances got up by them than any other
 nation that helps make up our armies, after
 the officer of the day arrived and heard
 our story he very graciously told us to go
 about our business but warned us not
 to give them the officers any more trouble
 viz. that the officer of the day had been
 disturbed in some little party of pleasure
 which made him a little sour on the
 occasion and this ended our boat riding
 for the season during the summer 1819
 a treaty was made with the Indians of
 Michigan territory Governor Cass was one
 of the commissioners and purchased a large
 tract of country at a trifling expense to the
 Government. after the treaty was made
 large delegations of came frequently into
 the city of Detroit and they used to have
 terrible drunken spells in which many
 were stabbed and several were killed
 from the effects of strong water and
 large numbers still wore British orna-
 ments guns and swords which they
 used to carry about brandishing them thro-
 ugh the streets in the wildest kind
 of frenzy and troops often had to be
 called on to take them into custody

An Election was held to Elect a delegate to Congress in the first part of October or September I do not now recollect but I believe that a gentleman by the name of King was elected here a Strategist of the Irish Soldiers was shown forth although the officers of the Territory were acquainted with the fact, nothing was said about the deception the party above named went and borrowed a large quantity of citizens clothes and dressed up as citizens and went to the polls and voted; then home to their quarters and another party would take the same clothes and dress up and go to the polls and vote and so they worked until they got in between 200 & 300 votes, Judge Williams I believe was the name of the opposing delegate

One day I was busy at something about the store and I got the hired man to black my shoes for me Mr Dorothea the owner the proprietor or owner of the Establishment came accidentally and saw his man at work blacking my shoes and asked him whose shoes he was blacking he said the young clerk at which the owner Mr D. flew into a passion and forbade the man ever blacking my shoes again and then came to me and wanted to know if I had come out there to be waited upon and I answered him and told him never to employ the man to black my shoes again and actually insisted on my getting some black

to grease my shod and did not stop abusing me until I went and claimed my shod myself at this time money was very scarce in Detroit and many of the business men had for their convenience and some for cheating had issued these little bills called shynplasters from 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents to one dollar this was caused on account mostly of the suspension of business after the War. One Rev Mr Ishard a Roman Catholic Priest was building a large stone church at Detroit and the old gentleman could not make a raise of funds the times being very hard and money scarce so he set to work and issued a large amount of these little shynplasters and at first redeemed them for a while until he had got some thousands of dollars issued and then stopped payment under the following supposition that a large amount of his bills had been counterfeited and when people would go to the old gentleman with some of his bills for payment he would examine them and throwing them out and he would say dat is counterfeit and dat is counterfeit and dat is counterfeit and so on until he would throw out about three fourths of the amount and the report was that he raised enough to pay for his church and get out debt by pronouncing his own bills forgeries and not redeeming them after Mr Devothen returned from New York with his supply of goods for the winters trade we commenced packing

the few old goods and our provisions
 and getting the new apartment ready for
 shipment in the latter part of September
 and a Sloop called the Loyal Hannah
 if I recollect right was the name and Capt
 Bolden Master and part owner Mr Devotion
 and the Captain were three days bargaining
 before they could agree upon a price for
 the chartering of the Sloop finally they agreed
 after three days and I believe the price
 was to be seven hundred dollars for the
 trip from Detroit to Green Bay as far
 as I can recollect in a few days the Sloop
 was loaded and all was ready for a start
 and our Master had settled up all his
 business except one thing that was his house
 keeper a woman of Lady as those that
 choose may call her this woman had
 been brought out from N. Y. by Mr
 D and he had kept her several years
 in an old french family being a short
 distance from the Store the great trouble
 was to get rid of this woman and
 send her back to New York that kept
 him three days for she was determined
 to go with him to the West and many
 tears she shed and clung to Mr. D.
 with a great display of love &c and
 no kind of persuasion could induce her
 to leave him and the only way he got
 rid of her was by threats and many of
 which no doubt he had to shell out pretty
 large by to prevent exposure and they parted
 and the Sloop sail for Green Bay

with a light breeze but got becalmed
 on the Shoals or flats in the Lake
 above Detroit (Lake St. Clair) there
 being only about seven feet water on the
 Bars the Captain did not like to sail
 until he got a fair wind fearful if he
 beat up he would get aground by running
 out of the Channel Whels laying to. The
 Schooner Jackson passed in their way down
 to Detroit we had a poor lot of provisions
 both for cabin and Sailors Salt fish
 and Salt Beef and from the looks
 of the Meat I should think the Captain
 had taken all the fat off to grease
 the Mast and yards & rigging of the
 Sloop and hard bread and coffee
 made in an Iron boiler which made
 the coffee almost as black as Ink and
 about as Muddy as the old darkeys
 face that made it these 4 items was
 about all that we had three times a
 day during the voyage whilst we were
 working up the river some Indians came
 along side with some fine fish for sale
 mostly large black Bass and asked a
 hard hard cut a price for them the Capt
 said it was too much and would not
 take any so we had to take to our Salt
 bones again we got a wind from
 the South East which caused us to move
 up stream slowly and as we passed along
 some farms came out to us with Melons
 for sale some the finest I ever saw and
 offered them for 5 & 10 Cents a piece

But the Captain said they were to deer and would not purchase any but Mr Devotion purchased 2 or 3 and we made out to get a taste of something fresh which was quite refreshing after having lived on salt junk for five days as the sun rose the wind rose with it and about ten o'clock in the morning we came to Fort Gratiot at the Entrance of Lake Huron as we sailed along we could see the Whitefish and trout when the water was about twenty feet deep, as the Capt informed us, Fort Gratiot was small wooden fort made of birch logs it commanded the Entrance of the lake it is at this fort that the Sioux Warriors became frightened when on their way to join the British army at Detroit and Sandusky it appears that a few British troops and some 3 or 4 hundred Indians had attacked fort Gratiot and had been repulsed the Sioux in passing at a distance saw several bodies of Indians that had been awfully torn by cannon balls & shot and seen were cut completely in two the sight alarmed them very much and they said they took good care to keep a good distance from the forts and out of range of the big guns. as we came to enter the lake there is quite a rapid current but the wind had raised to quite a breeze so that the old sloop went through the rapid without using a rope there is quite

an Eddy on the North Side as you go up
 and the Captain took advantage of this
 Eddy and as the Sloop Emerged from ~~the~~
 it and struck the current coming out of
 the Lake the vessel all most stopped and
 the Water rolled up round the bows
 about 4 feet high from the force of
 the current rushing out of the lake but
 she had headway enough to carry her
 through and the moment the vessel
 came into the still water the sailors
 all gave a shout and on we sailed
 into the open lake and away we sailed
 for Mackinaw the wind kept rising at last
 some of the yards began to crack hands
 aloft the Captain cried up they scamper
 as fast as they could take a reef in the
 top sail and in we went at fearful
 speed the night aft the Captain kept up
 sail until we got opposite Thunder
 Bay Islands here the wind blew so
 furious the Captain had to to furl the
 top sail and take a reef in the main
 sail and in this way we arrived at Ma-
 -ckinaw the Captain and Mr. Devotion
 went on shore and up to the fort to report
 to the Commanding Officer where they were
 going and what frightened with it &c &c
 When the Captain and Mr. Devotion
 came on board I got permission with
 the Mate and our Man to go and
 take a look at the fort and town and
 we went and took a look at the old
 fort that had been taken by the British

and had been demolished and abandoned
 and a new one had been built lower
 down and nearer the water than the
 old one the old fort was on the highest
 point of the Island and was very difficult
 getting wood and water and was supposed
 to be impregnable and I should of thought
 so Myself from the May detach and water
 hole, I would of thought any force there
 could have been brought in those days
 could not of taken the place and I
 suppose would not have done so if the
 Americans had not of agreed to capitulate
 and in this way they got in the whole of
 the old fort appeared to be entrenched and
 a great many cisterns from ten to fifty
 feet deep and some of them were made
 to contain water for two purposes probably
 to prevent troops from crossing and to keep
 a supply of water handy, as it was very
 difficult to get water from the lake, the
 hill side being so very steep the new
 fort I did not go inside of it it being
 late we hurried on board of our old Sloop
 the next morning preparations were made for
 and the Sail Vessels like Michigan some
 fisher men came along side and offered some
 fine fish Trout and white fish but our
 Captain was to hard for us again and would
 not pay the customary price but the owner
 of the goods Mr Devotion bought a few
 and so we had one mess of good fish
 from the clear waters of the great Western lakes
 the fishing is generally considered by the

french and half Breeds with what they
 call gill Nets the Nets are from 100 to
 150 feet in length the Meshes of the Net are
 about 4 or 5 inches square the fish in pass-
 ing get their heads through and there hang by
 the gills and the most of them are a lead when
 taken out as they generally visit the Nets
 Every Morning the Water is from 30 to 40 feet
 deep when the fish Small Stones are tied to
 the bottom of the Nets and strips of
 Red cedar wood about 3 feet long and
 about 2 inches wide in the centre and taper
 each way the sticks keep the Net spread
 to its full height being about 4 or 5 feet
 there is a stick or a float as they are called
 opposite Every Stone or Sinkers and this keeps
 all the meshes or squares even with each
 other, the Indians also catch a great many fish
 and the half breeds also catch considerable
 quantities the Trout are caught among
 the White fish as the Trout prey upon the W-
 hite fish the White fish must live by suction
 I should say for they have a Mouth very m-
 -uch like a sucker these fish weigh from
 4 to 10 lbs each the wood used by the inhab-
 -itants is mostly brought in old vessels from
 the adjacent Islands This Island of Mackinaw
 was noted for several years for a great Missio-
 -nary School where hundreds of half breeds has
 been taught a common Education also the
 Island of Mackinaw was noted as a
 great rendezvous for all the Northern traders
 the Month of June and July the place used
 to be filled with all classes of people

English Irish French & Americans Half
 breeds and Indians and Shaw often
 heard them say that the Island of Mackinaw
 was the greatest place in the North for pleasure
 Now before the Sloop got ready to sail
 I got anotheraking down about going
 My Shaw May old had caught the Man
 Clanny My Shaw saw Munny on the ship
 and stoped him and called me and set
 me to work at the Slush tub again
 but by the by there was but little to be had
 for the captain patch the Slush tub pretty
 close and he found there was enough to pay
 for the trouble he would have it all rubbed
 on the Mast an reggin and spars after
 all was ready we sailed out of the Straits
 of Mackinaw the first day we got along
 very well but the second day there came on
 a blow from the North West The Captain
 tried beat up against it and sailed out so
 far North that he came near getting on to some
 shoals of sand the wind kept increasing in
 violence and a great rose which made
 our old tub of a vessel vibrate and top at
 a great rate. finally the Captain saw he was
 losing ground and it was get near night
 and the the laked frightful with a raging
 sea so he bout ship and went before the
 wind under close reef Main sail and
 in about one hour we were back where we
 started from an Island under the lee of which
 we took shelter but before day light the
 wind calmed down so that we land quite
 easy although we had rolled and tossed

Nearly all Night from the agitation of the Water by the force of the Wind and Sea We found 30 fathoms of water Not a great distance from the Island We found some Indians here Wind bound the brought along side some fish but the captain as usual would not give a haul cut a piece for them here We had an opportunity of seeing the Bark canoe side upon the Smells from the lake was their strength Equal to their buoyancy the Bark canoe would make the greatest life Boat, that could be found the Bark canoe rode the Smells like a duck and Not a particle of water appeared to splash over the Bow or Side, but they so frail that they are easily broken but in the North there no other canoe used the canoes carry from 2 to 10 Men and the traders use a great many of them on the small rivers for transporting goods for the India trade also for fishing and about the great lakes the French fishermen use them in winter When fishing the object of using them in winter is the Ice often moves from the shore by the force of the Winds and the people that set the Nets under the Ice would be carried off and lost if they did not take the precaution to take a canoe along so if the Ice should move they can jump into the canoe and paddle to shore again the Ice sometimes makes out 5 or 6 Miles from shore and the fishermen go out and cut holes and set the Nets under the Ice and take all winter in this way at day break the wind had calmed down a little and the Captain set sail again

and run out from under the lee of the Island and beat up against a head wind until about ten o'clock. When the wind commenced blowing a gale again from the west and tremendous sea commenced rolling but the capt. battled against it all day until near night and found he was making no progress and the clouds looked very stormy and dangerous so the capt. bore ship again and ran before the wind again and came very near of being blown to the point of the Island that we had left in the morning. We just missed it and that was all and run of about a mile South East and brought up under the lee of a small Island with perpendicular sand banks and very deep water here we laid and rolled all night and I suppose one cause of our Sloop's rolling so was the great high. Must she had the wind calmed down a little in the night and she got under way early in the morning again the wind commenced blowing round to the Southward and finally got fair the Mate was at the helm for the Capt. had turned in to rest a little as he had been 3 days and two nights without much rest or sleep. The Mate went to the Capt. and told him the wind was getting fair the Capt. ordered the sails set square to the wind and then the old Sloop made water boil again around her bows she rode till about noon the Mate told him they were of Washington harbor the Capt. got up and ordered them to run in between some Islands and went to the helm and the Mate went up to the Mast head

to look out by this time we had got in
 between two Islands the Main on the
 South was quite large from appearance
 and did not appear to be half a mile off
 in a few moments we had run by under
 the bottom of the Sloop the Mate cried out
 rocks and she jumped over them her whole
 length the captain whaled her out of
 the mind she lay drifting for a few minutes
 and not touch any more the Mate said he
 thought me run over and the captain put her
 before the wind again a lucky escape
 that says the captain Yes says the Mate
 I was thinking about a Box or a Barrel to
 hang on to for I expected to see the bottom
 out of the old thing in a few minutes now
 the capt said he never knew bad luck with
 out some good luck with it we got clear of
 Washington Harbor without any more trouble next
 came green bay about 2 or 3 o'clock the bay
 is very shoal mostly Muddy bottom and
 the ^{water} was quite rily so much we could see nothing
 when there was a foot of water in a bucket
 and there was a long heavy sea running over the
 great flat bar of sand and Mud the black
 Man was at Mast head looking out for
 breakers of which there were some near
 the Entrance of the Channel that comes
 out from Fox river all at once the dark
 Sun came out breakers right ahead the capt
 was at the helm but did not mind the old
 drake so kept on his course the Man sang out
 again breakers ahead Captain you goin
 right on em

and hastened down as fast as he could
 and ran about the deck almost frantic
 hallooing captain you smash de Sloop &c
 the captain gave the Wheel to the Mate and
 Went up to Mast head and there stood watch-
 ing the breakers which we could now see
 from the deck and all hands stood shivering
 expecting we should strike the Mate stuck
 to the helm and kept on the course right
 straight for the breakers probably some Mate
 would have mutinied and taken his own
 course and we would all have been lost
 but no he kept on and directly he got a
 signal from the captain the Sloop turned
 her course and along she slipped in between
 two piles of breakers When the water
 was dashing over at frightful rate the
 vessel was now in the channel and the
 Fort was in sight the captain came down
 and says old darky What do you think
 the old Man brought in a very long sigh
 and said Lord a Massa I shot we were all
 lost in a few minutes we were at the fort
 the captain called and reported and delivered
 the mail &c When we sailed up the
 river about a mile to Mr John Saws
 When the goods was to be stored the captain
 was in a great hurry for the season was getting
 late for sailing and it was dangerous
 on account of some very North Westers
 an old saying is pass the bridge that
 carries you safely over I think Capt'n
 Belden navigated and worked us through
 probably better than many Captains would

have done in the Circumstances, running
 through So many Shouls and adverse Winds
 to Encounter and No damage or loss. I think
 we can afford to praise the Captain. We took
 up board at Mr Laws for a few days until the
 goods were all stowed then Mr Devotion
 rented a small house of Mr Law and we
 kept house by our selves for some days as
 we could not get Boats to go up the Fox
 river with the Boats had all been taken
 away by the traders for to transport goods
 and provisions for the winter trade after
 waiting and hunting several days they found
 an old Mackinaw boat a leaky old thing
 Mr Devotion had it repaired as well as
 could be done in that place and had it
 loaded with goods bound for Prairie
 Duchon on the Mississippi it was very
 difficult to get hands enough to manage the
 boat finally he found 2 french men 2 half
 breeds and a Menomonee Indian and we started
 -ed loaded down to the water edge I had
 pass the Indian agent, office an old
 french man the name I have forgotten
 this house and for ever five others were
 all that were at Green Bay when I landed
 there we went on one day with our boat and
 camped at night at the foot of a very strong
 rapid the next morning we tried to get over
 the rapid with our load but we could do
 nothing our load was too heavy and the water
 too strong for our force so we unloaded half
 and tried that and got almost but some
 of the Men slipped and the boat got a

Start back wards or down ward, and away
 it went down stream over rocks and rapids
 as the boat was starting two Men jumped into
 it and went over the rapids in it and caught
 it up about half a mile below and they
 tried a gun but with no better success ex-
 cept they kept the boat from drifting so far
 we found that we could do nothing as our
 boat was old and leaky and not hands
 enough to manage so heavy a load and the
 french men got discouraged and said they would
 not if some of the load was not taken out and
 the boat had commenced leaking very much
 so I finally concluded to go back and
 see Mr Devotion and tell him how things
 were one of the Men went back with me
 the Man that was employed as guide & steerman
 of the boat & the boat in charge of an
 other french man and started we got back
 about ten o'clock in the morning and I went
 and reported the facts to Mr Devotion
 he did not say much at first and app-
 eared to be studying what to do after
 a while he told me to go back and unload
 the boat and get it turned up so as to have
 it ready for calking when he should get
 up there and when I started he followed
 me out a for some distance from the house
 and asked me how I came to leave the boat
 I would not get along and there was no use
 of staying there and do nothing well said
 he you could have sent a french man I
 said they could not speak ~~for~~ English
 that was nothing to you he said

and he commenced cursing me at a
rate and I never such abuse from
man before nor since I started on
my heart full of sorrow and my eyes
full of tears I thought then I would rather
be at home if it was a poor place than be
amongst so much aristocracy as I found
amongst the Western people the most of the
business was carried on by a few pretended
rich and they had under them many men that
were treated as much like slaves as any thing
else and nobody ^{of common cast} could appreciate with these
big bugs nor go near them unless his hat
was under his arm in the evening I arrived
at the boat again tired and hungry
I went to the boat and took a little spirit,
and gave my pilot and guide some and
got some supper the Indian who had
along saw us when we drank some spirit, and
asked why I did not give him some and
said if I did not give him some he would
go back I told him the liquor was not for
him nor any of the rest of the band, but I was
very tired is the only reason I drank some he
found he could not scare me into his wish
he went to sleep and never troubled me any
more on that subject In the morning we went
to work and up set the boat and commenced
working the goods round the rapids by
hand the distance was not long but was
rough with rocks We worked all day and
at night had got the goods nearly all
the goods far enough so that we could
load them above the main rapids

The next day some of the Men went hunting but found no game. In the dusk of the Eveing a Deer came galloping down to the river from the opposite side and walked into the water and walked straight across the rapids the Men saw it and out with their guns and ran up a little distance and waited for the Deer to come out of the water and shot it and we had a great feast that Night roasting and boiling. In the Morning I went to look at the Deer meat wishing to keep some for my old Master as he was expected that and I found that the Deer was half gone I Enquired what had become of the venison they said they had eat it in the Evening. The Master arrived in a small boat with two Men and a few goods his Man went to work and cooked some Supper for him from the venison that I had had work to keep some for him in the Morning. My Master got up a little better Nature than he had been a few days before. The French Men had learnt how he had treated me when I went to report to him our condition and said if he went to smearing at them they would leave and go back so he had to treat us a little more civilly for there were no other hands that he could get a it was with much difficulty that the few that were going with all hands went work on the bar.

got it corked and pitched the next
 day. We tried the rapids again with the empty
 boat and with hard pulling we got the
 empty boat up and loaded and started
 and still found it very difficult going
 along the water was so very low that every
 little rapid we came to we had to unlash
 from the goods and take the other half
 away ahead and then come back and get
 the remainder and so we worked along
 until we got up to Wimbago Lake and
 I think we had to repair our boat 3 or 4
 times in going about 30 miles, the river was
 so low and the rocks sharp that calking
 wouldnt pulled out of the seams of the boat
 nearly every day finally our pitch gave out
 then we had to use tallow and ashes which
 served very well as the water had by this
 time got very cold and every morning
 there was along the shore of the stream on
 our way we passed an old French mans
 hut the man of the boat said he had lived
 there a great many years all alone and all
 the company he had was a pig and the hands
 said the pig used to eat out of one end
 of the trough and the old frenchman would
 eat out of the other end and they dispute for
 the largest share of food. When we got
 Wimbago Lake we were over the rapids we
 stopped and warmed as the wind was blowing
 quite fresh and our boat was quite heavy
 laden we had to lay too half a day at
 the entrance of the lake there was an old Win-
 E-bago village the men went to hunting

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for caches of corn but found none
Except a cache or two of Potatoes but
they were mostly rotten. The Winnebagoes had
lived here from immemorial as the Country
once abounded with Deer and Elk and
wild fowl in abundance and the Winnebago
Lake furnished them with great quantities
of fish and with their gardens they lived
in plenty and being at peace with all
Nations they lived apparently happy and
when the strong water got amongst them
then most always some of them got killed
which always kept up family feuds
and intestine wars amongst them after
dark the wind went down and we started
and got about half way through the
Lake and the wind commenced to blow and
we had to go ashore again but the wind
did not blow long so we started again
and got through about daylight and
landed for breakfast Winnebago Lake is
about nine miles wide when we crossed it
the men were all sleepy having been up all
night and laid down and took a nap
while the breakfast was cooking the wind
= then was beginning to get cold and the ice
was making very fast. We rowed
and poled and toiled all day and
got to Lake Apock Way, or Rush Lake
about dark and found the lake frozen
over the pilot said if we did not go
through that night we could not get
through at all so we went to work with
our poles and axes and every thing that
could find about the boat that would

break ice and broke ice and polls and
 oars and every thing else that was breaka-
 ble and finally had to give the ice was
 too strong for us and we turned back about
 mid night to try to get a landing and when
 we got back when we commenced breaking the
 ice at the foot of the lake we had to leave
 our boat some distance from the shore
 as the ice when we first commenced breaking
 had frozen so hard again that it would
 bear a man up so we left the boat abo-
 -out 2 o'clock in the night and walked
 ashore on the ice almost perished with
 cold our boat men were pretty ex-
 -hausted and they soon had one going
 but it was cold black place and we could
 not enjoy the fire much only to keep from
 freezing when day light came we moved
 further into the woods and made a good
 camp and got breakfast and went to
 work to unload the boat the goods had
 to be carried and rolled about the side of a
 mill to get to the place where we wanted to
 build a store house for the winter as we
 supposed after the boat was unloaded
 Mr Devotion kept the hands one week
 to build a store house there had formerly
 been a trading house here and part of it
 was standing yet which we used for a
 kitchen or cook room so we had only a
 store house to build when this was done in a
 rough manner of round logs and a few pun-
 chons for a roof the boat hands left us and return-
 -ed home

about this time our provisions began to get
 scarce and our Master Mr Devotion put
 us on about half rations that is the head
 man and myself as for himself he did not
 work any then he did not eat much but
 our servant or man did the cooking
 and frequently before Matine we used
 to get a lunch from the Kettle so that when
 we went to the table we could be as modest
 about our eating as the Master of the house
 here is the first place that I saw grouse
 I was out hunting one day and a flock flew up
 and some of them lit on trees and I crawled
 up behind other trees and got a shot with
 one of these old English Chief following guns
 I missed my bird I was so anxious to get one
 that it excited me so much that I sighted
 the bird and not the gun I missed twice
 but the third time I made out to break my
 wing and got it and started for home when
 I got home Master asked me what I had been
 firing at so much I told him some fowls
 that I did not know what they were & said
 he it's a grouse well I said never saw one
 before therefore I was anxious to get one made
 shoot until I got one well he said it would
 good to make a pie or stew, so he had it
 cooked to suit himself and not leaving any to
 well supplied as our meals we found it very
 good about a week after the man left us
 Mr Devotion got news that some of his
 goods that had been sent forward as far
 as ^{the} portage had got not ~~to~~ a man likely to
 be damaged so he said I must go and

Look after them We had no guide and
 what to do We did not know in a day or two
 a discharged Saldier from the Fort came along
 and said he was going to Prairie Duchien
 he said no but said he must to follow along
 in sight of the river until he got to the Portage
 then he could get in with some times handy
 supplies for the trade, so Mr Devotion
 had him to go with me to the Portage betw
 en the Fox and Wisconsin rivers and return
 with me so we got ready and Mr Devotion told
 us to go to Mr Grignois a trader living
 a days March above us on the fox river
 and ask him for a guide to take us to the
 Portage and back again We found the trader
 house without much trouble which was a lucky
 hit for us in a strange country and winding
 about amongst the hills and brush if we
 had of got lost there was no help for us for
 we had no provisions and it was cold and we should
 have perished in a short time but we got in safe
 and the old trader gave us a good warm supper
 of bison and good bed of blankets, altho
 -ough it was in one of these ~~old~~ ledges all open
 at the top that the trader was passing the
 winter happy by the ^{side of a} young Indian woman
 apparently Met andolan of the ~~Macmin~~
 tribe Next morning we started early with
 our french man for a guide and travelled
 all day until near Sun set when we came
 to a new place of destination all most tired
 out and hungry as it is not customary to halt
 at mid day for a lunch the day being
 short and cold we travel the whole day

Without Eating. and I got amongst another
 class of people the Winbagay, now here
 and such an other gibberage I never
 heard in my life and french mixed
 up with the Indian dialect none of
 which I did not understand words
 know by signs and a few words of
 English that the french man understood
 I made out to make him understand
 my business up to the portage that was to
 examine the goods and see that all
 was safe and dry and got a good
 fire started in the store room and
 commenced opening the boxes and found the
 goods in good order and nailed them
 up again and gave a few raisins to
 the family that were trading there and
 got ready to start back, the french man
 had had some Venison I wanted a ham
 or thigh and I think we parled and made
 signs for about half an hour before
 I could make him understand what I
 wanted I kept calling the Venison Crow Meat
 and the french man gave it some name that
 I could not understand so at last took the
 man showed him the venison and by signs
 got him to understand what I wanted so we
 got a thigh of venison and I packed it
 on to my french guide and we started early
 and I kept along with them until about
 3.00 then I started ahead on the track that
 we had made going up as there was about
 4 inches of snow and it made good travelling
 and a plain track the french man worked

hard to keep up with me and keep close
 to me for about half an hour when he began
 to lag he had the meat to carry but was
 a much stronger man than I was when he
 found he could not keep up with me he
 commenced jabbering about some thing and
 fell back with the other man the discharged
 soldier who was at this time far behind
 I pushed on and got in about sundown
 and about an hour before the guide & soldier
 I had brought along some loaf sugar and
 some raisins for the old french trade when
 we put up the old gentleman, Mr. Cognac,
 had a warm supper got for us but I
 notice the french man did not eat with
 us and after we had got through with our
 meal I went into the next room and saw
 my guide and another french man at supper
 I saw there was only one dish on the
 table so I had a curiosity to see what they
 were eating so I did up towards the table
 and I suppose they noticed I was a little
 curious and offered me some of their
 repast I politely declined saying I had just
 finished my supper but much I wanted a taste
 to see what they were eating they said corn
 plenty corn but little grease poor french
 man nothing but corn and little grease
 all winter all winter and afterwards I
 found that the traders hired their men
 in Canada for a term of four years and
 to be paid from fifty to one hundred
 dollars per annum and clothe themselves
 and to have one pint of corn and one

ounce of Grease per day and the promise
 of something a little extra if the game
 in the country would justify the trade,
 in issuing any different kind of food
 and so the poor Canadians had to live
 four years on corn and grease mostly
 and carry heavy burdens on their backs
 and row boats and canoes and do a
 large amount of other hard labor for
 a meagre pittance of from 50¢ to 100¢ per man
 & fed on corn and grease early in the morning
 I started with my discharged soldier for home
 again on Rush Lake to day my soldier had
 to pack the venison which worried him
 very much and about 4 oc P.M. I started
 ahead and left my man to come on a loan
 and I got in a little after sundown but
 my man did not get in until sometime
 after dark almost tired to death and in fact
 was laid up a week from the fatigue of
 the journey after our arrival at home
 our old Master continued his economy on the provisions
 and we had only about half an allowance young
 and growing healthy people we had a few traps which
 we set trying to get some kind of game that would
 give us food or sustenance for our bodies but the
 wild animals were too much for us and kept out of
 our traps so we lived on our half rations the best
 way we could until a team a team arrived from
 Prairie du chien by the Ice and land Mr Belcher in
 charge to get a supply of goods for the troops and
 was ordered to proceed with the company and further
 ordered to proceed from prairie du chien to the
 falls of St anthony with goods for the troops

a ~~very~~ ^{very} preparations were made for the journey
 and I started with the train for Prairie du Chien
 with some seven or eight one horse sledges all man-
 -aged by Canadians, although we had hard
 work in traveling in the cold which was very
 - Intense we were glad to get where we could get
 some thing to eat and made our journey from
 Rush Lake to P. Duchesne in five days as nothing
 particular happened on the piece of the road I will
 commence from P. Duchesne again after
 staying a few days at the Prairie and we made the
 preparations for the holidays which were quite
 comical in some respects, by the Canadians we got
 our train ready for another March up the Mississippi
 the weather was extremely cold but the ice was good
 and we traveled all the way on the ice from P. Duchesne
 to Fort Snelling with only one accident that
 was a few miles below St Croix we had camped at a
 trader house by the name of Hornbault to rest our
 teams and get a little rest for our sleds as we
 had been traveling for several days and sleeping out
 on the snow all the teamsters agreed to have
 one days rest at the traders house but the Indians
 broke up our plan of repose a large number of
 them came in families and all and made
 their camp near the trader house and fearing the Indians
 would steal our goods we were obliged to hitch up
 our teams and start although it was nearly sundown
 and very cold the Indians looked curious and
 singular to me and I scrutinized all their operations
 both men and women and before we started the
 trader had been through the camp collecting his credits
 and got into some trouble by taking goods from an
 Indian that had not been able to ~~pay~~ ^{pay} up the amount due

The trader therefore the trader took from the
 Indian his gun, traps & a large Kettle the Indian
 remonstrated and told the trader he was taking too much
 but the trader said No and so a quarrel commenced
 and the trader came near being killed for Expecting
 too much of the Indians and amongst the Indians
 I noticed a family of a different appearance from
 the other Indians that appeared to associate with
 the trader, family on relative terms and dressed differently
 and looked cleanly in comparison to the other Indians
 and amongst them was a young Miss which attracted
 the attention of the family of the trader and when
 they assembled together they appeared to be all one family
 and there were some Mixed Blood girls that
 were as well built as white women that could
 be found only they had a little of the olive
 tint but were straight and good countenances
 the manner of raising the children amongst
 the Sioux is to lash them to a board
 for about one year for 14 or 16 hours per day
 and in this way they must grow straight
 but after they get to be 12 years old they
 begin to carry heavy burthens and at the age
 of 30 they begin to give way under heavy
 loads that is carried by straps across the
 head and they begin to get bow legged &
 crooked backed and loose all their good
 form and features. after we started one
 team broke through the ice not having
 ever seen anything of this kind it alarmed
 me but I had to take one team and make
 for land but I was afraid every step I took
 for fear I should break through but I got
 safe to land while the french man got

a Rope round the Horses Neck and got his Harniss off and they all got hold of the rope and dragged the horse out but the animal was very much chilled and must have suffered very much from the freezing that he made but as soon as the horse was pulled out which act appeared to be performed very easily as the man pulled on the rope it shocked the horse and he commenced kicking or struggling and floated on his side and was quickly pulled out and blanketed thrown over him and a man jumped on to him with a good whip and ran him for about ten minutes then he stopped and they took hay and rubbed him down then gave him another canter by this time we had got a fire started we got the horse up to the fire and smoke and he soon dried up as well as ever all though the weather was very cold Now another trouble was on hand some of the load had sunk and the men cut some long poles and fastened some large nails to the ends of the poles the ends of the nails were bent so that they got hold of some tobacco kegs and got them safely out all but one keg that night the next morning the men raised the other keg and we hatched up and started again and came as far as olive grove Now Hastings here we found Lieut Oliver with a small party of soldiers watching a Kul boat load of provisions that had got frozen in in the fall

and from here we had a good road and arrived without any more trouble. I found my brother Will and you never saw a more delighted company of people as the Officers and Soldiers were on our arrival, for they had run out of Groceries for a week or more and the Scurvy had got amongst the troops and there had already died about fifty men before I got there and several died after I arrived. Their Rations was nothing but Rusty Pork and Bread some of them would get sick apparently well at night and be found dead in the morning others would live a week some 2 or three days & soon the commanding officer Colonel Lawrence sent a party of Soldiers over to the St Croix and they found some Spruce by Dr C. Purcell's direction the Doctor ordered a tea to be made of the Spruce and had it well sweetened and made them use Vinegar freely and some Spirits and the Scurvy soon left them but about twenty men fell victims to the disease before its progress was baffled. Some of their bones were not long since sticking out of a bank from where gravel had been taken for the fort the blankets that the Soldiers had been buried in were but little decayed also the hair although they had been buried some twenty years the coffins were all decayed and nothing but bones hair and pieces of the blankets were found when they were disinterred. The troops had arrived at the Mouth of the St Peter River, Minnesota,



When we would all assemble at our depot at Sands End the clerks and men would have a jolly time for a few days turning foot races, Surmising, Whistling, and shooting at a Mark in the Sports. Whilst we were firing at a Mark with my brother pistols I got the pistol was cocked and raised the muzzle carelessly straight up and off went the pistol and suppose the ball did not miss my head more than two inches it staggered me some and frightened me and I quit the pistols for that day and on another day I got to Wrestling with a man by the name of Noble a clerk of the company he was about my height & thick stout built and considerable heavier than I was the first fall we broke hands and counted nothing as we both fell on our hands the second fall I threw him fairly he got up and said he would throw me or break his legs so we tried it again and he made desperate lunge at me and threw his whole weight on to me at the same time gave my ankle a blow and wrench and I fell with a broken ankle which kept me lame for near two months, at nights we used to get together and have a duck soup some half a dozen of us there was one of our company we used to take pleasure in playing little tricks on him and we would get him in to our supper after we would get through we would do common scuffling and we would manage so as all to get on top of our man and then we would rail and toss until he would hollow "Mum de" and every thing else and after

he had got a good fumbling we would let
him up the moment he could get a chance he would
make track as fast as he could get a way



When I was trading at Sandoe end I went
out to get some of my credits and Indians
that was along in company also Mr Campbell
and several others ~~some~~ were along we
were going to a Wahpacosta camp high upon
cannon river the first night we camped
this Indian got at my pack and stole
a paper of small brooches there was
about 500 in the paper and cost about
30 dollars as they were made of pure silver
but there was so many in company that I
did not know who to lay the theft upon
and said nothing and came back home
and in four days the Indian came into my
my house with his hair string full of the
new brooches I wrote to Col Snelling and
told him the circumstances and he sent some
soldiers and had him taken up and put in
the guard house and sent word to the In-
dians to come in the thief told them where
they could find the brooches at the end of three
days the Indians came in and brought the
brooches they asked for food saying they were
very hungry the Col told them he did not feed
thieves and told them he was going to keep the
thief 20 days in the guard house and took
his gun worth probably 2 dollars and gave to me
for the brooches that were missing and shut the
the gentleman up he stayed in about two

in September before I arrived there and
 commenced building winter quarters at the
 Mouth of the Mississippi near on the South
 bank as there was a large quantity of
 timber handy they had got very comfort-
 -able quarters both for officers and men
 in the form of a fort with four gate
 ways and was quite formidable against
 Indians as the buildings were of logs a foot
 through Some of the old chimneys still
 remain to mark the place of the first
 fort the chimneys were of stone and long since
 fallen and overgrown with Earth and little
 mounds mark the spot and shape of the old
 fort I passed the winter in a little building
 out side the fort with my Brother trading
 with the Soldiers and nothing was done the
 first winter only to provide for themselves, in
 the Spring the troops were all moved over
 to camp cold water where there were
 some beautiful Springs for their health as
 the Physician and sundry officers thought
 the present location very unhealthy being
 surrounded by flats and swamps so it took
 all summer to build new quarters and make
 some gardens for the officers and the troops
 during this summer Captain Cap arrived here
 from his Northern tour a salute was fired
 and some counseling with Indians and the
 governor started on his journey down the river again
 nothing of importance was done during the summer
 Except some parties had been sent out to look
 for Pine timber to build a fort on the point
 of land between the Mississippi and Minnesota

Rivers 1820 a few sticks of timber had
 been hewed and hauled to the ground that
 Col. Linnworth had selected for the fort
 on the rise about 300 or 400 yards west of
 the present fort Snelling. The parties that
 had been in search of pine timber returned
 and reported large quantities on run river.
 In the Spring of 1821 Col Linnworth was
 ordered to the Missouri and Col Snelling
 was ordered to take command at St Peter on
 Minnesota river, Col Snelling changed the
 location of the New fort and made it on
 the precipice at the junction of the two
 rivers, and ordered a party to the Falls of
 St Anthony to commence Saw Mill to make
 Lumber for the fort 1821 the troops
 was obliged to return to their old quarters
 in the winter of 20 & 21 at the mouth of the
 St. Peters. While several parties were sent
 out to cut and hew timber for the fort and
 besides this the men had to cut and haul
 all the wood they burnt by hand on hand
 sleds a large number of Pine logs had been
 cut and hauled by hand by the soldiers
 to the bank of the Run river but the Mill
 was not ready for running or sawing till the
 Summer of 1852, at this time the water
 sovery low in the Mississippi river that
 the Government boats used to cross over
 from the Main shore to the Island for timber
 for the Mill for 2 years there was not much
 done worthy of note the whole command
 being occupied in building there were about
 300 men and officers to command them

The officers names I will give so far as I can recollect — Col. Peanworth Col. A. Snelling Major Fox by the Major. Carabe Capt. Gooding, Capt. McCabe Engr. Elr of the fort building, Supt W. G. Camp Lute Master Supt Mc Cartney Supt Wilkinson Supt Hobart Supt Edmund instant, Major. Hammetton Supt. Oliver Dr. E. Purcell Louis Devotion Selter Supt Harris Supt Clark (Capt. Clark commissary) Capt. Pelham and a Band Master ^{Mr. Kerphur} from which company Mr. Jos. W. Brown Sprung this is all the names that I can recollect as the fort officers the commenced the work on Fort Snelling all things went on peaceably until the fall of 1822 When an order was received from Washington to demand of the Sisseton Indians a Murder the assassins of Minnesota it appears had been over to the Mispauri and murdered a white man there Col. Snelling made the demand and 2 relatives of the Murder was brought in as hostages the Indians made a great show and parade on the delivery of the two hostages firing guns hooping yelling running to and fro with all sorts of jisticulation a formal delivery was made of the hostages out side the fort the gates all closed and the cannon all ready in case of an attack the Indians said that their great father had demanded some of their bodies, here they are kill and eat if you wish if not we hope you will return them safe to us again Col. Snelling had them marched into the fort and took from them their British Marks that the hostages carried

One had a large British Medal and the
 other a British Flag the Col Snelling
 order a fire to be made in the middle
 of the parade ground and took the flag
 and burned it before all the Indians and
 then went up to the other hostage and cut the
 British Medal from his neck and ordered
 the two hostages confined in the guardhouse
 and ordered a few rations for the Indians
 that had come to deliver up the hostages and
 they went off very much humbled and
 were peaceable for about one year after the
 two hostages after having been confined about
 a month one morning at day break wanted to go out
 a Sentinel accompanied them out side the fort
 and they got out some distance amongst the stumps
 and thus from the Sentinel and started ~~with~~
 a hoop the Sentinel Francis Mason or Squire
 fired at them and came near killing one of them
 the ball passed so close to his head that he fell
 to the ground the other Mozak-tunkah
 or big Iron saw him fall and stopped and
 asked him if he was hurt the other replied
 that he thought not well said Mozak-tunkah
 we can get away up and be off for the
 Sentinel is far behind so they started again
 and went clear I happened to be out at this
 time and saw the Indians when they started
 and all the operation until they were out
 of sight the alarm was given in the fort
 and all the officers and Saldos were out
 in pursuit but the Indian was too far off
 and the chase was soon given up

the work on the fort had progressed on
~~the fort~~ So that most of the troops and
 some of the officers had got into New quarter
 in the new fort in 1823 but our State
 was still at the old place at the Mouth
 of the St. Peters. about this time an order
 came that the Sitters for the troops should
 only get 25 percent profit on their goods
 Mr. Devotion kicked at this and quit the
 business saying that 25 percent would not
 pay the troops attorney's (wastage and brokerage
 and wound his business with about Eighty
 thousand dollars in paper money on the
 banks of Illinois and Missouri the pay Master
 Capt Larned it is supposed made a hand
 some out of this transaction he took the
 Government drafts and sold them to these
 Banks and took their paper and paid
 the troops with it (at this time there was
 no law compelling the pay Master to pay in specie)
 So the Sitter had to take the paper money from
 the troops for his goods. The Indians had
 run away and another demand was made
 upon them for the actual murder and
 after much delay and trouble the murderer
 was brought in and delivered up to Col
 Snelling. Says the Col I will see that you
 don't get a way and put a large ball and
 chain to his foot and put him in the guard
 house and sent him down to the States
 for trial but no witness appeared against him
 and he was set at liberty but never reached
 his Native land Some think he was murdered
 some think he died of fatigue & hunger

during the two years that I was at the
 old fort I learnt to hunt and trap Wolves
 I got a couple of traps made and about
 Every other day I would catch a wolf although
 they are a very cunning animal I often out
 witted them I sometimes would cut a hole
 in the ice the exact size of the trap then
 I would put a piece of clean white paper
 over the trap then Sprinkle Snow over
 the paper then I would cut Meat into small
 pieces and Scatter all over the trap and around
 8 or 10 feet wide so while the Wolf would
 be running round picking up the small crumbs
 of Meat would step into the trap still not
 with standing all this precaution some of
 them would spring the traps and Eat the bait
 and get off start another plan I had of hunting
 the Wolves was to get into an skin house or
 house laying on the river bank and wait
 for them passing at night about ten or twelve
 o'clock at night they would begin to come
 round and I shot several in this way
 after night and Every chance I could get
 to slip out from the Stone I would be
 off hunting and during the two years
 that I was at fort I Killed a large number
 of Wild fowl and Wolves which was
 my greatest delight for to trap. during the
 last Summer that I was in the Suthers Stone
 the young woman that I had seen on my
 way up the Mississippi a daughter of one
 of the Chiefs came into the Stone frequent-
 ly to trade their quill work of Moccasins
 and many other little articles of their Manufacture

fracture her appearance and conduct
 attracted my attention and in fact the
 young woman got acquainted with all
 the Officers Ladies of the fort and she
 became very much respected by all for
 her good behaviour and decent appearance
 and thereby far exceeding the rest of the Indian
 girls and she used to get many little presents
 from the Ladies and gentlemen of the fort
 and I was not behind the rest in showing
 favors to the old chiefs daughter Still there
 was another young lady courting me and I
 was courting another namely the one that was
 after me and wanted me to marry her sent a
 Messenger to me one day and asked me to marry
 her for she said she loved me very much
 I made an excuse saying I was too young
 to marry and gave a small present and
 the messenger went off and they never troubled
 me again but I fixed my mind upon the
 old chiefs daughter. The chiefs name is Kee. E.
 = he. i. or the man that flies the daughters name is
Kayhe no Mah or Spirit in the Moon but as our
Saghe no manah owner of the store had made
 up his mind to leave the country I did not make
 any advances to the young woman or give
 her any encouragement about marrying him
 but continued to make them little presents from
 time to time until we left for St Louis
 which was in the fall of 1823 we loaded our
 little keel boat Mr Devotion Capt Gooding
 2 or 3 discharged Salden our servant was about
 all the company on board the little keel boat and
 we started leaving all old friends behind

We had all become very much attached
 both officers and citizens and it appeared
 almost like my first sitting out from home
 to have old acquaintances not knowing whether
 we should ever meet again and as floated
 down the river we passed the tribe of the
 old chief on the Island below the fort they were
 all out looking at us as we floated past
 all we could say was a good by and on we
 floated but we had hardly got half a mile
 and still in sight of the fort when floating
 along with our mast up we ran under
 a leaning tree hanging over the river a limb
 of the tree caught the top of our mast
 the boat swung round broad side to the
 current and began to run and we came
 near sinking but we got one of the men to
 climb the mast and cut the limb of the tree
 and away we floated again and after
 that we looked out for the old leaning trees
 on the banks and kept off from them and
 camped for the night below the mouth of the
 St. Croix as usual Mr Devotion gave us a
 stringy meal as usual when we first came
 into the country the next day we got into
 Lake Superior and came to that noted place
 the lovers Leap the Indian tradition of which
 is that a young man had took a fancy to a
 young woman and induced his friends and relations
 to make up a party and purchase the young lady
 according to the Indian custom (which purchase
 if acceded to by the parents is considered a marriage
 although the girl may not have known the man
 or have had but a slight acquaintance with him

yet the parents will or wish is to be obeyed
 and aristocracy often brings or entails misery
 upon many of the Indian families by the parents
 making marriages for their children where there
 is no love nor intimacy with the bridal
 parties the young man sent in his presents
 or the amount that his friends had collect to pay
 for the girl he wanted the parents appeared
 although the amount was small yet the
 young man was a great hunter and the old
 folks looked to a man that would give them
 plenty of venison but the daughter had
 been looking forward to a young man that
 she loved and rebelled against her parents or
 said she wished to marry a man that she
 knew and loved but the parents persisted in selling
 their daughter for a good hunter the daughter
 remonstrated and said the man has already a
 wife and I do not wish to live a life of polygamy
 or my particularly as I am the second and
 will have to be a slave to his first wife
 the parents said we are old and cannot hunt
 and this man will feed us all the daughter
 expostulated and said she did not wish
 to be made a slave to serve a married man
 as a wife for the sake of a hunter but the
 parents said you must obey this was in
 the evening on what is called point de Sable
 or sand point opposite the fatal place the
 daughter saw there was no chance of saving
 herself from slavery for life to a man and
 woman she knew not nor loved therefore
 she resolved to free herself from misery
 by destroying herself and accordingly she

Made preparation for the work and
 long before the dawn of day she took
 the paddles of her parents and Embarked
 into a canoe and crossed Lake Superior from sand
 point to the great perpendicular rock opposite
 the place where the Indians were encamped
 in the Morning Early the orator of the party
 or band that were traveling arose and commenced
 his Morning oration as follows My friends
 we are now going on a hunting Excursion
 it is time to be up and be off the lake is
 calm up up and Make your sacrifice
 to the god of the water that we may pass
 this lake in peace or that the waves will be calm
 and not stop us on our journey The old orator
 proclaimed their duties to their gods in
 a loud voice and could be heard three miles
 upon the water and I believe I have often heard
 them three miles when they were speaking
 before raising their camp it is general custom
 for some of the camp to rise Early in the
 Morning and give directions for the day where
 to go and where to camp and where to hunt
 that day and when to assemble at night
 the old orator said in Midnight dream of
 last night a Mountain appeared before me
 and on the top of the Mountain I saw a
 damsel attired in her best clothes and
 she looked forlorn and alone and appeared
 to be in trouble and I awoke arose
 and prepare for the day journey all was
 up at the loud voice of the orator and
 cooking and preparation went on for the
 Journey of the day

after the repast and other little preparations
 of packing and loading the canoes the old
 woman of whom we are speaking Missed
 her paddle and looked round for it and
 began to distrust something was wrong and
 ran down to the water's edge and found
 her canoe was gone and then commenced
 Enquiry for her daughter whom she supposed
 had slipped with some of her friends for the
 night owing to her sorrow or troubled state
 of mind but no daughter was to be found
 and general search was made but nothing
 was to be found of the supposed bride and orders
 were given to March the Mother with much
 reluctance raised her camp and started
 with the rest and the usual sacrifice or
 offering was cast upon the water by the old
 Warriors pipes of peace were filled and smoked
 to the deity and the god of the water and the
 old orator commenced a song to the spirits of the
 water and to his dream of the last night and
 saying I fear my dreams will bring sorrow to
 our hearts this day and they paddled slowly
 along on the lovely bosom of Lake Superior and
 as they approached the opposite shores of the
 lake the Warriors raised a song of grief and
 joy and all at once an echo was heard from
 the high promontory opposite where the little flotilla
 of canoes were passing down the lake the old
 herald raised his voice and said on that
 summit I saw a damsel in my dream
 I now hear her voice hark listen a breathless
 spell came over the whole flotilla of the
 company about 100 canoes in company

a song was heard from the Mountain
 to ^{to} My parents, I remember your kind
 care and sing to the gods that has kept
 us and the Morning Star that guides us
 in our Early rising and Employment to
 guide you for the future and I now free
 myself from misery and contention. What
 says the old orator is my dream coming
 to pass where from whence comes those
 sounds hark again he says look look on that
 Mount see see. He says from whence comes
 that voice and sing here a great consternation
 took place canoes all landed and came
 with the Men to gain the Summit to see
 who was the person that was responding to
 their songs below and the Mother looked
 up and behold her daughter was there clothed
 in all the riches of Indian attire standing
 upon the precipice of about 100 feet the
 young Men Warriors strove for glory to
 ascend the Mountain the young Man
 although a husband reached the place
 first and says to the girl what has brought
 you here. You are the person that bought
 me a Wild Man I never will leave
 with she rolled her self in her blankets
 and made the a couple leap and landed
 a mass of broken bones and mutilated flesh.

O what a quish bath to parents and love
 if there were any love and a warning to
 forced marriages the body was taken up and
 deposited in the common way on a scaffold
 there to remain one year and after that to be
 interred in the ground

We went on down the lake and passed a
 point where some white men had been
 killed by the Chippewas not far from the foot
 of the lake the Chippewas came on to our
 boat against the Sioux and finding none
 they turned in and killed three white men
 on their way to fort Snelling Mr. Fendly and
 Mr. Dupree and some others that I do not recollect
 their names Troops had been ordered out
 to meet the Chippewas but by the time the
 troops arrived there the Indians were
 no where and a short time after a boat
 full of soldiers was robbed of their provisions
 by a party of Chippewas near the
 same place where the white men were
 killed a good specimen of beaver by our
 troops We passed on down without any trouble
 and came to Prairie du Chien My first landing
 place on the Mississippi I found no change
 in the old french settlement which
 is older than Philadelphia and only about
 fifty houses in 4 mile square this place
 derives its name from the oak timber being
 the exclusive growth of timber on the prairie
 Black Jack and scrub white oak, from
 here we worked on down to the mouth
 of the river and roved up to the traders
 Establishment about 7 or 8 miles from the
 mouth of the river here we found 2 or 3
 Indian traders Mr. Boutelier, Vanmeter
 Mr. Hull and some others in log cabins
 3 I think in all Mr. Boutelier traded off
 some cloth for Lead and loaded his little
 keel boat and went out for

St. Louis we floated along down
 to Rock Island. at the head of the rapids
 we passed a sack and foy village they
 were swimming horses although the wind
 was blowing strong and a heavy swell on the
 river the horses and canoe men appeared to
 enjoy the pleasure and crossed the great
 Mississippi a manomni word for great
 - river the Chippewa Name is Kitchicapi
 the Sioux Word is hah hah watepah
 river of the falls in stead of laughing
 water a burlesque upon the indian language
 When we arrived at Rock Island 11 men
 soon surrounded with the Native, of the
 country socks and foyes at the place was
 a government fort here we met some old regu-
 ar tans, officers, and soldiers and passed a pleasant
 evening with the military and floated
 of the next morning for St. Louis and
 we met with no inhabitants, until we got
 near humber a man by the name of White
 was the first and we encamped and got some
 new milk and some fresh butter an article we
 had not seen for 2 years I had been
 troubled with dysentery all the way down
 and I got a pint of New Milk and boiled it
 and put sugar in it and it cured me in
 one night we sailed on down and
 passed clarks ville with one Buckhous
 and 3 or 4 log cabins 1853 We continued
 our journey on down to St. Louis with
 - out any accident and landed in St. Louis
 in the fall of 1853 here we spent the winter

and the Most of our time was spent in trying to get something for the bank Note, that Mr Devotion had received in payment from the troops for the goods he had furnished them but all was a failure and Mr Devotion lost all his earnings in the Soldier's trade for 5 or 6 years and Mr B. H. Larned the pay Master reaped all the benefits and the Banks of course a hand in the matter upon this failure Mr Devotion commenced drinking and his whole business went to destruction by the Larceny which eat up every thing he had we passed the winter and commenced in the spring to make a garden at the place where now living as it was rented for a year my brother had turned out and gone back to fort Snelling to tend the Sutlers Store again I was still living with Mr Devotion and he one morning ordered me to go to work in the garden so I went to work and helped plow the garden and prepared the ground as well as I could then a lot of Manure was hauled on the ground and I was ordered to go and heat it up and spread it out over the ground and here commenced a trouble I told Mr Devotion that I was hired to him to be a Carter or a Manure Master I would not attend to it they made the old gentleman somewhat displeased that I would not be a dang carrier for him and would not speak to me for several days.

Finally he came out and said he had
 intend to do something for me but
 he did not know whether he should and
 McNamee or not. I told him to act his
 pleasure but to remember the services I had
 rendered him he went away and left me
 and went to his hired man and told him to go
 on with the garden during this time.
 My Brother arrived in St. Louis
 again the Sutter business having passed
 into the hands of other persons. We passed
 the most part of the summer in hunting and
 looking over the country and would not
 know hardly what to do. My Brother engaged
 a clerk ship with Messrs. Powell & ~~and~~
 My old Master Mr. Devotion came
 to me one day and said I have had
 it in my mind to do something
 for you and if you will take a
 lot of goods and go to Fort Snelling
 and trade with the Indians. I will
 get an apartment for you. This proposition met
 my views and I agreed at once to go to work
 and go into the trade remembering the
 girls left behind me. So Mr. Devotion went
 to Messrs. Bastwick & Co. and purchased two
 thousand dollars worth of Indian goods
 on credit and turned them over to me and
 I baled them up and got our little keel
 boat ready again and hired four men
 and three men who took charge of the boat
 and the boat men and in one week we were
 all ready and left in June 1823 for fort
 Snelling again. My Brother remained in

St Louis with Messrs Sawells and
 Mr Devotion kept Watch with his
 Servant. Before going any further with my
 trip up the Mississippi I must relate
 some little incidents that took place whilst
 I was in St Louis. Mr Devotions Man was an
 Irish Roman Catholic he had prevailed on me
 to go to the Catholic Church and I finally
 became more and more attached to their
 service and became a regular attendant &
 had any of them proposed the thing to
 me I would of joined their church but no
 one said any thing to me on the subject of
 religion and I slipped from what I do not
 know about this time Lent came on and
 our Man was keeping Lent and Enquired of him
 some thing about it and so I thought I would
 keep Lent too and commenced on Bread and water
 and stuck it out for 40 days on nothing
 but bread and water and got along just
 as well as those that lived on Meat one
 day during Lent Mr Devotion wanted me
 at table I told him that I did not wish
 to be at the table when he had company as
 I was keeping Lent he commenced speaking
 and said I was a nuisance to the house for
 keeping up such foolish acts but I stuck
 it out and when the Lent was ended I com-
 menced eating Meat and other rich food but
 it made me very sick for 2 or 3 days the
 sudden change of diet, our Servant all-
 = thought a strict Romanist would indulge
 a little Meat every day and after dinner
 would take a very sound Nap, and one

day whilst our Man was fast a sleep
 I got some pieces of rope and tied his legs
 together and then took the rope up to a
 large nail in the joice overhead then I
 tied his hands and made them fast and
 commenced pulling the rope on his legs and
 worked very easily until I got his legs pretty
 well drawn up and went of quietly &
 left him there snoring away. I went over
 to Mr Devotions room and after a while
 I went out to see if Mr Tom had woke
 up yet but he was not stirring yet
 So I stood a while on the piazza in
 front of the room where I had left my
 friend Tom in a few minutes I heard a
 rattling in the room when he was after
 a little open his the door the moment
 Tom saw me he made for Mr Smunys
 room I ran for Mr Devotions room he
 followed me to the door but durst not
 come in for he was a friend of the old
 Master Mr Devotion and he stopped and
 went back to his room again but he kept
 me out for three days under the penalty
 of a good thrashing if I ever put my
 foot in his room again Mr Devotion
 discovered there was something wrong and asked
 me what it was I told him what I had done
 he had quite a hearty laugh over the scrap
 and told Tom he must make peace with
 me and after a while Tom saw me
 out and came along laughing and said
 he would let me off if I would promise
 not to play any more pranks with him

So we aigned to drop & forget all and made
 friends again, this summer the water
 was very high and working along with our
 little Kell we found it very difficult to
 work with poles as we could find no bottom
 and had to pull along by the brush a good deal
 of the time we were three days getting at
 - one the Mouth of the Mispouri. We had
 stopped for dinner and there appeared to be
 a great storm a rising we laid too and
 the storm did come with a vengeance
 and we were nearly being sunk by the storm
 the blow down a large cotton wood tree
 which fell within ten feet of our boat
 which if it had struck us would sink us all
 in one minute, time the water was over the
 banks of the river in many places and the water
 was up to the windows in the houses along the
 river banks the storm shook the trees so
 violently along the Margin of the river that
 acres and acres of land and timber fell
 in to the river during and after the storm
 chaos and below us but we escaped unhurt
 after the storm we moved on slowly some
 times we were 2 & 3 Miles from the river
 in order to find bottom so we could work
 with our poles one day we good fair wind
 from the south and we sailed about 50
 miles that day and reach Clarkesville
 one brick house and two or three wood
 buildings was all there was of the town
 there was a post office here I got the Mail
 for the upper country and set out the next
 morning and worked slowly along until we

reached the head of the ~~lower~~ Rapids
 or rapide. Desmone, we stopped for dinner
 and we saw an old Indian village a
 little distance off and saw some flags
 flying in the air so we thought while the
 men were resting a little we would go and
 see the Indian town so we all went but
 one man to watch the boat but we found before
 we could get to the Village we had a small
 stream to cross the men plunged in and over they
 went and I followed but I found the water
 was very deep and I could not swim and
 if the pilot of the boat had not caught me
 by the collar of the neck I should have drowned
 but he got me out soon and we had quite
 a joke over the scrape of their getting
 me in over my head and getting a good du-
 -ckling &c &c we went on up to the village
 on an emmaned on a beautiful ~~large~~
 large prairie we went to the houses from
 one to the other as the Indians were all off
 hunting all at once the men commenced scratching
 worse & worse by and by they began to look at
 their legs and they found that they were covered
 with fleas and they commenced screaming in pain
 and jumping and running off for the water
 and as soon as they gained the river in they
 plunged and rolled and washed until
 they drowned all the fleas I stand a little
 while and examined a new grave the body
 was that of a man in a sitting posture a warrior
 partly decayed a large number of trinkets were
 left in the grave which was open so we
 could see all. this Indian we learned after

= Wards had been to War against the Sioux
 and got wounded with an arrow and got
 home and died a great deal of Mercy
 had been displayed for Indians in the
 burial of this Warrior I think the 3 or 4
 very pretty flags flying over the grave and
 there to be Worn out by the winds The mounds
 we could not get to see what they were made
 some looked like Silver some brass and
 Wampum and beads of various kinds I would
 think at the price the Indians had to pay for
 those articles, it had cost them \$150 for
 what they had left on the body and in the
 grave — We went back to the boat and picked
 up some round stones that appeared to be light
 and we broke some of them and found in side
 particles of Stone in every variety of shapes
 and almost a transparent as thick pieces and
 in fact the inside looked very much like
 glass but the outside was dark color and
 rough the river here all comes together &
 is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide and in low water
 is shoal and large sharp rocks in the bottom
 and boats have to be very careful in down-
 -ing in low water for the current is very
 strong and boats frequently get stuck in these
 rapids. We got in the way and went all the
 remainder of the day in our wet clothes the next
 day I was taken down with fever and ague
 and I had no medicine and I dragged along
 in misery until we got to Rock Island where
 there were some troops I got some medicine
 but it did not help me much by this time
 the water had fallen some so we could

Poll and Cordell our little boat to
 considerable better advantage we
 crossed the rock island rapids in about
 a day and a half which was considered a good
 run for Poll & Cordell after we got over
 the hands were very tired and stopped
 for dinner and after dinner some of them
 went to sleep and one of the french
 men said he would like to play a trick
 on one of the boys that was a sleep but was
 a little dumpy after his sample and
 told some of those that were awake if they would
 keep the fellow from knowing him where
 he should find it out he would play the
 most laughable trick on him that they ever saw
 So all the promises imaginable were
 made that they would assist each other very
 well you will see some fun says the
 french man So the man that they were
 to play upon lay broad in his back with the
 arms and hands both spread out the mis-
 chief maker unbuttoned his pants and went and
 eased himself in the sleeping mans right hand
 and hastily buttoned up Now says he all
 pretend to be a sleep as soon as I am done
 so he pulled a hair from his head and laid
 it across the sleeping Mans nose and crawled
 off and all was apparently a sleep
 but like fox with eye open It wasnt
 long before the hair began to make the
 sleeping Mans nose itch and thinking it was fly
 or some insect he brought his right hand over
 on to his nose and I guess there was a hub bub
 in a moment all was routed and a nice

first after one then another some that had
 been a sheep did not know what to
 make of it as they did not know what had
 happened they thought the fellow was crazy
 = 34 When he found he could catch them he
 commenced with his tongue and a spoon
 as they all understood the joke that all
 joined in the sport nobody knew nothing
 about it. Nobody saying they he would
 look at his hand then chase one again
 then another so finally he found he could
 make nothing of them and went and washed
 but he swore vengeance on the perpetrator
 if ever he found him out the time came for
 starting and all was ordered on board but
 there was not much fun the remainder part
 of the day in fact the fellow did not get over
 it for a week but took good care to get on to
 the boat when he went to sleep in the day time
 we worked and toiled in the hot sun from
 morning till night so warm that the Missams
 would have Miss Sun blister on their arms
 every few days and I had the ague which
 was no comfort to me during the hot weather
 finally we got to Prairie Duchien here I
 got some more medicine and I took two
 paper fingers on board one by the name of
 W. F. Baker going up to teach school at
 Fort Snelling he was sick and had the ague
 the other was a Mr Joel Whiting from Green
 bay with a few goods and groceries to sell
 at Fort Snelling we moved off slowly two
 of us shaking with the ague every other day

It appears to me that we used half a bushel of Pork, but did not appear to help us in the least Mr Whitney had some good Brandy on board but he would not let it said he was afraid the men would get at it but this was a mere excuse for the men had a plenty of Whisky and were not in want of the real thing. Thus he was afraid of us that we would not give him enough for it and as he learnt after words he was the greatest shuffler that ever went up the Mississippi generally after taking 55 days in the hot sun and sick with ague we arrived at Fort Smith in August 1823. I have written this to show the character of the french who are always rife with tricks and craft & as it came into my mind in my first voyage up the Mississippi on the Ice with a french train I will tell another of their tricks an old frenchman was driving a team behind he called to one that was driving a team a little distance before him and told him he wanted a chew of Tobacco the one ahead said yes in a few minutes and I will let it fall in the snow and you can pick it up very well. Said the old man and on we went after while we came to some hives of Manure the one ahead picked up some and halloed to the old man he heard and told him there was some tobacco for him and let a piece fall in the snow the old man watched very careful and came to the place

and picked up what he thought was his
 Tobacco it was all covered with snow
 so that he did not discover what it was at
 first and came near getting it into his mouth
 but stopping to brush the snow off a little
 discovered that it was not tobacco for it all
 felt to pieces when he commenced brushing the
 snow off the old fellow commenced scold-
 ing and smearing at the other for cheating
 him in such a dirty way this set the whole crew
 wd to laughing and shouting as they knew no
 thing of the affair until the old man began to rage
 this made him worse and the fellow pulled
 his blankets off the sledge and was for turning back
 they all gathered around him and told him he
 would perish if he attempted to go back alone
 some threatened him if he attempted to go back they
 would tie him on the sledge but the old man was
 pretty resolute and held off for some time finally
 one of the party gave the old man a good slug of
 tobacco this pacified him a little and he agreed
 to go on and took his team again, as soon as
 I arrived at St Peters or Fort Snelling I com-
 menced building my winter quarters and trading house
 and kept my bath hands one week for this purpose
 and we got the body of a house up and part of
 the roof on and I had to let my boats crew go
 back so I purchased a wood canoe of the Indians
 gave them provisions for the voyage down to St
 Louis I hired a boat and hired another french
 man and went to work and finished my ^{house} the best
 we could timber was very scarce and we had a poor
 place for to shed rain the Indians came in and
 commenced trade in small things as the furs were not

good or Seasonable one day an Indian came
 to me and said he wanted to get something
 and took him down to the boat where I still
 lived and asked him what he wanted he said
 he wanted powder I asked when the pay was
 he said he wanted a credit I told him I could
 not give credit, he hung round for some time
 and asked for something else I refused after
 a while he pulled out his knife and commenced
 rolling it about on his lap and asked for
 powder again I refused and got up &
 took my gun down and laid it across
 my lap Now says I to my self I will be
 ready for you if you do try to injure
 me, so the fellow hung about for some time
 and kept asking for powder but I kept refusing
 finally he found he could not frighten me
 in to muscans and then commenced coaxing me
 and showed me his gun and said he had one
 load of powder I looked at his gun and found
 that it was not loaded and it is probably well
 for me that it was not for the Indian was a
 great rascal and might have taken
 some advantage of me as I was entirely
 alone however I stuck to my gun and finally
 the fellow went off mad enough and I was
 glad to see his back for he had kept me
 full two hours in the little cabin of
 my boat working and trying to make me give
 him something I lived here with my French man
 until October when my brother arrived from
 St. Louis by this time some of the furs began
 to get good and some trade commenced
 and most every day we had a visit from the

* and My brother and myself we got perfect with the pistol that we used to hold a candle for Each other to shoot at in the house in the night this used to alarm the Indians very much to see us holding a piece of candle about six inches long for Each other to shoot at we used to snuff the candle Every shot one time we were shooting and a little cat jumped upon to my brother's shoulder just as I fired the Ball made the tallow fly about some and some of it struck the cat in the face and sent her a Whining and Squalling this pleased the Indians greatly to see the little cat cut up so antick from the effects of the Yellow Striker, her in the face no doubt it made the kitten's face smart some as its face was only about six inches from where the ball struck

Host from the Officers Most of them were
 young men and good of Sport My brother
 had a fine pair of large dueling Pistols We
 Used to spend a good deal of our time in shooting
 at a Mark* and riding about was about all
 we done that winter Except to tend to the Indian
 trade which did not take a quarter of my time
 now and then I would take an excursion
 or a trip around amongst the Indians and
 once in a while the girls I left behind me
 called on to see me and trade a little and
 got a little present and be off again in
 a short time one time I offered her a scarlet
 Blanket for a kiss but it was no go and off
 she went home When the spring came my brother
 got our furs together and made packs of them
 and preped them as well as we could and my brother
 started for St Louis with them before my
 brother left for St Louis we received a letter
 stating that Mr Louis Devotion our old
 Master was dead it appears after I left
 he took to drinking very hard on account
 of his losses which was considerable about
 40 or 50 thousand dollars as I have related
 the crops had been paid off in in Illinois
 and Missouri Mary and the Banks failed
 and when Mr Devotion found he was
 going to loose all it broke him down
 and gave up to hard drink and died
 the fall after I left him My brother
 went down and paid for the goods that
 I took for the trade When my brother went
 down he had some discharged Souldiers
 to row his boat for him and they found

he had some money with him and they formed
 a plan to rob him he hapened to over hear
 them and hapened so that they were not far
 from a town and he landed and discharged
 them and got another crew and got down
 without any trouble Mr Devotion was dead
 and the house that had furnished us with goods
 had failed and we could get no Indian goods
 and my brother could not make up his mind what
 to do about this time one Kenneth McKenzie
 from Red river of the North came to St Louis and started
 up a trading company and my brother joined
 them and came up with them I had got tired
 of waiting at fort Snelling and went down to
 Prairie Duchien to see if I could get any news of
 my brother or what he was doing I stayed with
 Judge Lockwood an old acquaintance of mine
 after waiting some two weeks my brother arrived
 with Mr McKenzie with a large keel boat
 loaded with goods and provisions for the trade
 and some 30 men and clerks to carry on the trade
 also they had sent a strong force up the Missouri
 to carry on the trade and a company was formed
 called the Columbia Fur company and a strong
 opposition was got up against the American Fur
 company by Mr McKenzies efforts. I embarked with
 the company and we left Prairie Duchien and the hands
 worked hard early and late as the season was getting
 late to get the goods in the Indian country at
 night when the boat would stop the clerks would
 go to the shift and go out fishing so that most every
 day we would have fresh fish with our salt pork
 after toiling hard for so ten day we reached Buf

New a small stream coming in from the East
 bank of the Mississippi so named from their having
 a range then for Buffalo in times of the oldest
 Indians remembrance this place is about 6 miles be-
 low what is called the grand Encampment on the west
 bank of the Mississippi this place drew its name
 from the traders and Indians camping there to hunt
 a day or so when going up or down the river
 as there were then great quantities of game there
 then when we started from Buffalo New we got
 a fair wind and hoisted sail the boat had a very
 large sail and we sailed all that day and passed
 the sand crany river a distance of about 60 miles
 We had a full bear on board the boat and we used
 to have a great deal of sport playing with bear this
 day we were sailing at my very fine by we
 had on board Doctor Purcell Physician for the
 Fort Snelling he was out and playing with the Bear
 the Bear jumped at him the Doctor ran back in
 doing so his heel caught on a clut on the running
 board of the boat and fell backward into the
 river the Doctors overboard I thought the
 Cook was on deck an old black man he jumped
 down on to the running board and in he went and
 swam down to the Doctor and told him to lay
 his hand on to his shoulder and hold on until
 the boat came he did as directed but the boat being
 great his way had left them some ways behind
 before the sail could be taken down and the head way
 stopped nearly the Skiff was got lost and sent after
 them the old Black man kept swimming all the time
 with Doctor resting one arm on his shoulder until
 the Skiff came to them and took them in and
 got them all safe on the boat the Doctor went

on his back he had on a large Solder Coat and
 as he fell back mussed it spread out on the water
 and held the doctor Squaw on his back until the
 Black Man swam to him and saved his life.
 The next day we had a fair wind again and sailed
 up as far as currents came without any more accidents
 here we got a canoe and four or five of us got in
 and paddled up to fort Snelling with the Mail
 we got in late after ten o'clock they were most of them
 in bed but the old friends were glad to see us and
 get the Mail I went up to my old place that I left
 in charge of a French Maud I ordered him to cut me some
 timber for another house whilst I was gone and when
 I came back found a house partly up at a place called
 Lands End about half a mile above my first sett-
 -ing ground. The hat came up the next day and ~~and~~ I
 bought of the company 500 \$ worth of goods on
 credit and they the Columbia Fur company went
 on up the Minnesota in small boats and carts
 for the winter trade with the Indians I went on
 furnished my house and fixed it pretty comfortable
 for the winter and commenced giving some credit to the
 Indians but the few goods that I had did not
 last long and in a few days one Ship's Boats
 a Cou-tari half breed a trader from P. Duchon
 came along with some goods and I entered into
 copartnership with him for the winter trade
 and got some more goods by this time the
 great Sleds behind me had come up to see me but
 they stopped a few minutes and was off again
 I began to think about getting married after the
 Indian manner. So I took two Blankets, sugar
 and 5 gallons of Whiskey and a horse and went
 to the old chiefs lodge and laid them down

and told the old people my errand and went
off home the third day I received word that my gift
had been accepted but the girl was bashful
and did not like the idea of marrying and I must
wait until they could get the girl reconciled to their
wishes for her to marry me in a few days they moved
their tent up and camped near my house and I waited
after they moved to my place before I could get my
wife as she was then timid at last through the in-
-tervention of the parents she came for to be my wife or
companion as long as I choosed to live with her
little did I think at that time I should ^{live} with her
until old age we passed the winter very comfort-
ably together the old chief lived in his tent
nearly all winter I fed and clothed them
all winter in the Spring my partner came down
from the mink trade and my brother and myself
had much trouble in settling up our affairs finally
under fair promises we let him take all the furs and what
was the last of all the trade with our partner he went
off and made up accounts that far over came him
in a parcel of trash that he had left me to sell
and would take them back brot them as a charge
and an offset against my account and brot us in-
-debt about 150\$ the Columbia fur company came
along and we gave them orders on Mr Barclay
he showed his accounts and they soon saw
that we were taken in and they could not get
any thing of Mr Barclay my brother went to
St Louis with the companies boat they had a
pretty good trade in the Minnesota they made
use of 400 pack of furs and robes thus
made the American fur company look with big
eyes when they this large lot of furs taken

their Pockets the company went to St Louis and
 got a new supply of goods and coming back as
 they were about to leave from Duchien a warrant
 was sent by Mr Bailey our former partner to take
 my brother for debt here they like have had a
 fight the whole boat, crew joined in to help
 keep the Sheriff off from serving his warrant
 on brother finally funds in tender and my brother
 gave his note for the amount and they left
 for Fort Snelling I passed the summer doing nothing
 finally the companies boat arrived and we had to
 make some new arrangements I had no goods
 and could not get any and what was to be done
 I was proposed to me to join the company on certain
 conditions that was I was to go to the Chippewa
 country with an outfit for to trade I had no other
 alternative and had to accept and the arrangement
 was made and I got my outfit ready also another
 outfit had been started for Red Lake in charge
 of Mr B. F. Baker the gentle man that came up
 with me in the Kilt boat when we both had the eye
 but the worst of all what was I to do with my
 wife of course she did not like the prospect but said
 she could live with her parents this relieved my mind
 some to think she would be in a place where would
 be at home so I made arrangements for her
 by leaving her a plenty of clothing and other things
 to purchase fresh meat or game from the Indians
 as she might want and we put her and off we went
 in our Bark canoe Mr Peter Quinn was my
 interpreter the first day went to the falls here we
 had to take our canoe out and carry them round
 the falls by hand two men took up a large
 Bark canoe and carried it half way then laid

down and resten then picked it up and caned
 to the upper landing a distance of half a mile
 the way the canoe is caned it is used up to the shoulder
 and the men have a little cord that they hold in
 the left hand attached to the canoe by this cord
 the canoe is tied firm to the shoulder and the
 Bales of goods weigh about one hundred pounds
 these packages are caned. With a head strap tie
 round the Bales and the Strap over the head these
 they carry from one end of the portage to the
 other one half mile this work generally takes one
 day so at night we were all over and ready for
 to start in the morning the water was very low
 and we made slow progress we broke our canoe on
 the rocks frequently then would have to stop and repair
 by patching and patching with gum finally we got
 proze up at a place called Prairie River or a
 hole in the prairie named from a place having been
 worn out by the water in the Bank on the East Side of
 the river here ~~we~~ we built a log house
 out of small pines of which there were plenty and
 where fort Ripley is now built about 100 miles from
 Fort Snelling this is the first pine the found
 in a body near the river we found that we
 were only on the East and Southern border of the
 Chippewa hunting ground but we had not been
 there long before some Indians came in and were
 glad to see us they said their old trader was
 so very hard on them they could hardly live
 they could not get ammunition enough to kill
 game to live on I went to work and gave
 them a pretty liberal supply and they started
 out hunting all well pleased and by night we
 had Bear and 2 or 3 Deer and you may

be a friend. We all had a great fast that night
 for we had been living very poorly for several
 days working in the cold water and ice
 getting our worn out canoes along. The
 Indians began to come in and some trade was
 done and then an old chief to take some goods
 and go and trade with Indians far above
 up the country now he went off and returned
 in about 2 weeks with a good lot of furs
 I was fitted him again by this time my
 goods began to get low however I took
 some Wampum a few goods and some silver
 work and a little out fit for the Sioux country
 and I started with one man and a Shippewa
 Indian that had been amongst the Sioux a
 long time and could speak a considerable of
 the Sioux language. The Sioux and Chippewa
 being at war I took this man as a guide and
 knowing the Indians knew him a great many
 of them I thought it would be safe to take him
 with me. We made up our pack and left the
 Interpreter and one man in charge and
 started for the Sioux camp. When we did not
 know. We traveled 3 or 4 days through a d-
 ense forest of thick pine one whole day crossed
 quite a stream with our Moccasins on and
 snow about 4 inches deep. We traveled the balance
 of the day with wet feet but did not suffer
 from cold as we had large pieces of blanket
 in stead of our Moccasins. At Sundown we
 camped. Made a good fire. Eat our lunch
 and our Moccasins and laid down and
 went to sleep. Very soon as we were very
 tired carried our packs and went at day break

We started again and just at night
 we got out of the timber this day it rained
 some and thunders about the middle of
 december we camped and slept sound from
 fatigue the next morning we started down
 Sauk river the Indian went out hunting
 for Elk and told us to on down to a point
 that he would be there so went on as we
 supposed to the place he pointed out and
 waited and waited for our guide but could
 hear nor see anything of him. We had struck
 the Sauk river too high up so went two days
 March from the Mississippi we waited
 until we got out of all patience and star-
 = ed on down the river we did not know what
 to do we were in a country that we knew
 nothing and where to go we knew not here
 we were in a quandary but we kept on our
 journey down the Sauk river about two
 o'clock our guide came to us much to our
 joy as we were relieved from any further
 anxiety about the route that we were to travel
 the Indian said we had missed the point
 other wise had not reached it we had not
 gone far enough he said he had been to
 the place that he pointed out some distance
 belows and not finding us there supposed
 we had gone down the river and started
 on after us and reached on until he had
 got tired and not finding us knew that we
 could not get far a head of him and star-
 = ted back in search of us the rain the day
 before had take the snow nearly all off in
 the prairie and our tracks did not show

Was one cause why we did not find Cacheott
 Sooner we went on until night and camped
 on Sauk river a stream about 30 yards wide
 but shallow in the summer our food had
 very many gone out so we had but little
 for our supper and breakfast and signs of
 any game the next morning we followed on
 down the river about ten o'clock when
 guns of South of us this we knew to be
 the Sioux and turned our course in that
 direction shortly after we started in the
 forenoon that we heard a back sprang up the
 had his gun down in moment all though
 it had a com on it and fired as the Derran
 from him as he fired the Deer tumbled
 over he had but was not quite the Indian put a
 small lead in his gun and finished him the
 Indian turned the Derran and said he had killed
 the Deer without making a hole in the skin
 how can that be said I say cant you account
 for it No I said well said the Indian the ball
 went straight into the back side through the
 Entrance, and lodged in his shoulder the Indian
 hastily took off the skin and a considerable
 quantity of the meat with it and shouldered
 it and we went on expecting to meet with
 some Indians but we travelled and traveled
 and traveled until we got tired and sat down
 to rest we started again and traveled until
 dark and found no Indians that night so
 we had a good roast of our venison and
 went sleep not dreaming of the trouble that
 we were to meet the next day we started
 early in the morning and traveled til about

Nine o'clock all at once We heard a gun
 shot from us We gave hoop and in a few
 minutes an Indian came running up to us and
 commenced hallowing and firing his gun and
 - otly another came and commenced firing his gun
 and so on and in about half an hour we
 had about one hundred Wild Supton
 and Warpaton Indians and the Wild
 - est kind of confusion prevailed for ab-
 - out half an hour Some were for killing
 us they said we were come as spies from the
 Chippewas to get the ^m killed &c &c I de-
 - manded all their apertions and told them I came
 to trade with them but they would not listen
 at all and kept on with their threats they stole
 my cup from me took Indians meat from
 him and gun and took Mas gun and
 cap from him and now threatened to take
 my goods Some of the old Men interposed
 saying they were of our trade, of the same com-
 pany that we have at Lac qui parle with us
 I told them if they did not stop their mischief
 I should report their conduct to the officer
 at the fort they stit some saying and two
 or three times Some of them cock their guns
 to commence the work of Murder We stood
 and never let on or noticed their murderous
 - intents the old Men interposed and stopped the
 young from killing us but I a person it
 was close run they held council and
 decided to take us to camp to the chief
 Sumpung Devil the name he derived from
 having traded the badly and very badly
 the Fox and Suck Indians had come

to War and found a camp of Indians
 encamped in the red wood near the fire
 on a small camp that was at some distance
 from the main body of them and killed many
 all of them and made off with out getting
 beyond the main camp started in pursuit
 the next morning they traveled all day and
 all night and the next morning about ten
 o'clock came in sight of the hindmost ones
 the camp had to hold back for some time
 to wait for the foot men to come up as the
 horsemen were some distance in advance
 finally a part of them got up and the chief
 made the attack the Fox and Sacks halted
 and the Sioux rushed right onto them
 and attacked them with Lance and war
 clubs and by the time the hindmost of the
 Sioux got up the Sioux had killed 13 of
 the Fox & Sacks and the foremost ones
 had fled by this time the Sioux they were
 completely tired out and did not follow
 them any further there were no Sioux killed
 but several wounded amongst them was
 this Simpson Devil was wounded in the arm
 this gave him the name of Simpson devil he was
 a brave but awful wicked man. and
 as we moved off for the Indian camp this
 man came out on horse back to meet us as
 Morris still came he took me by the hand
 and then my guide and my man and bade
 us proceed onto his camp the Indians
 were all waiting expecting the chief would
 give orders to have us all killed but no such order
 came and we went safe into camp

No doubt it must have been the interpo-
 -sition of God that subdued this wicked
 chiefs heart for the time that our lives
 might be spared. When we got into camp
 the chief told his brother to take me to
 his lodge and the man went to another
 lodge and the Indian guide to another place.
 So we were all separated. A council was
 called and we were all called in and
 I was told if I would tell the truth that
 that we could go home again but if
 I said we could not go they wanted to
 know what I had come for. I told them I
 had come to trade but I had got out
 of the rout that I had intended to go
 and had fallen in with them in stead
 of the Indians that I wanted to see. I told
 them the Indians that I was in search
 of was the Munda wapintens that had
 left St Peter after I did. When I expected
 to meet my wife and you married. They said
 yes I said to whom to Kie, E, he, E's daughter
 at the time an Indian Black ternahawk
 of the lower bands came in and confirmed
 my story. Must and said these Indians
 are afraid you have come to find them
 they are so. The chief was concerned and
 Kie they kept me there until about mid-
 -night talking and questioning me as to my
 reasons and made promise to come back
 and bring them some powder and balls
 and finally broke up and let me trade the
 few goods I had which was done in about
 an hours time. The chiefs brother White I

Was trading stole one of the Otters that
 I had trade and sold it to me for wampum
 I could not say any thing for the least
 thing would have started a sup and
 we would have been killed so I said nothing
 but give him the Wampum and gathered
 up my furs as quick as possible and tied
 them up and sat down on them they kept
 me a prisoner for three days and we had
 snow with them in camp every day long
 - they the 4th day in the morning the Chief
 gave us an escort of 20 Braves mostly
 old men to accompany us on half day
 journey so they conducted us on our road
 until about noon and halted and sat do
 - we and had a smoke together and shook
 hands and we separated and I will op
 - we we traveled hard the remainder of the
 day and got on to the Mississippi and
 camp all most tired to death we had
 traveled so hard to get out of the reach
 of those hateful creatures in the morning
 we were off by light without any food
 we traveled all day and at night camped
 by Pikes rapids a place where General
 Pike wintered when exploring the Mississippi
 - near in the night it commenced snowing and
 snowed all day we shouldered our packs at
 daylight and intruded through the snow
 storm this was the third day we had been
 without food I ask my man and Indian
 what they would choose providing they could
 have their wish for breakfast the frenchman
 a good drink of Brandy the Indian said

a good loaf of Bread and a good
 cup of Tea & coffee I told the Indian
 he was good deal of my opinion that I
 would a good piece of fat Bear Meat &
 yes said the Indian that would make
 the belly and hair both slick We trav-
 eled on almost Waded out through the
 Snow Storm and about 3 o'clock P.M. we
 arrived home once more a place I once
 thought I should never see again When
 I was first taken prisoner by the Sioux
 the Chippewas came in in large numbers
 to hear the news and they said it was one
 of the greatest wonders in the world that we
 were not all killed the mother of the
 Indian was along with them she came to
 see her son and told me plainly that if
 her son had been killed she would have
 killed me on my return without him
 so it was a providential escape all round
 I staid at home and recruited strength a
 little and fixed up for another trip for
 Fort Snelling as I was entirely out of
 goods there were 3 Chaps that wished
 to go and 4 other Indians myself and
 one man made the party 9 in all We all
 got good Snow shoes made and while
 we were getting ready one Mr Wm. Aitken
 a trader from Sandy Lake came down
 and stopped in an old partly broken down
 trading house about half a mile above
 me on an Island he invited me to call
 over and see him so I went with my in-
 terpreter and made him a visit and and good

Sum an invitation to visit Mr Sohe
 called in and we talked over the trade
 and some other matters a short time and
 Mr. Atkin left but wanted me to visit
 him at Sandy Lake I told him I probably
 would after I came back from Fort Snelling
 by this time I had about 20 packs of
 Furs and peltry I showed them to Mr. A
 he looked with astonishment and said
 those are mine by right for all these
 Indians have credit of me I said I
 had paid for them I believed they were mine
 now yes he said and I will watch you
 after this and so he did keep them or 14
 men amongst the Indians all the time
 watching them and as fast as they would
 kill skins they would take them from
 the Indians but the Indians always
 would find some chances to hide a
 Bear Skin or some other furs and bring
 them to me finally we got ready and
 started for St. Peter's or Fort Snelling
 on Snow Shoes the first day I got a
 long very well for a new beginner we
 expected to camp with some Indians
 the first night from Mill Lake or Barn
 river but we got disappointed and
 it was bad business for us as we had
 taken no provisions with us expecting
 to get a supply from the Indians but
 they were gone and what to do we
 hardly knew so two good walkers
 said they would go in search of them
 the sun was about two hours high

When they started and Smith the balance
 of the company remained in the old camp
 without any supper we built up a good
 fire and laid down and took a sleep
 we slept until about nine or we got up
 and made a fire and warmed up but no
 Indians came back we waited and waited
 at last they came about midnight we
 Enquired what had kept them so long they
 said they had followed the trail of the
 Indians which had taken them along
 ways round and to Mill Lake which
 they said was not far off to go straight
 and that there was a trail that they
 came in that we could go in two hours
 but they could get no provisions what to
 do again was a subject to be considered
 about getting provisions for the journey
 the old chiefs we could go by Mill
 Lake and Snake River and by so doing
 find Indian camps all along and sleep
 with them nights and if they have any food
 they will feed us for the night we were
 all anxious to go to Fort Snelling all
 the journey by this route was long and
 some what doubtful about getting provis-
 = ions I consented to go and we started off
 in the night about half past nine but I found
 the snow shais had strangled the cords of
 my instep very much and it was with
 much difficulty that I could keep up how-
 ever I hobbled along and finally we got in
 to Mill Lake about mid night and an
 old French man by the name of

Leroy was trading there for Mr. W. M. Atkin
 the old man got us some Rice made
 or gathered by the Indians and had it
 cooked so we had some warm Rice and
 a little Sugar with it which made us
 a very good supper as we were very
 hungry having traveled all day and part
 of the night without eating. The old man
 said they had to live poor as the trade wo-
 uld not afford any great expense and they
 had mostly to live on Fish and rice, he
 said they only got Flour about once a
 week as for Pork they never thought of such
 a thing this old man's daughter was married
 to Mr. Atkin as his second wife. Mr.
 A was expected there that night but he
 did not come I wish he had for I could
 of got some assurances of him but the
 old man was afraid of his Master and
 dare not furnish us any as we were
 opposition traders and the custom in
 this country stands out against and
 drives out every opposition either by fair
 or foul means thus they probably can
 in the morning the morning the old French man
 gave us another dish of Rice this wild rice
 is very similar to our white rice as to nutri-
 -ment but is quite dark color its nutritive po-
 -wer is quite feeble and does not give much
 strength to the body in the people of this
 country have to eat it which is simply boiled
 in water when they can get some grease to put
 in it it helps to give nutritive also Sugar
 is used with it which makes it palatable