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Folder: Reminiscences, original manuscript,
pages 152-241, 1861?

Collection: Prescott, Philander, 1801-1862.
Philander Prescott reminiscences and related
papers, undated and 1861?

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I told him I could not swim a Rod but I was
 not afraid for the Canoe was large and heavy
 which made so hard work for three of us to go upon
 so short a time it generally takes loaded boats and
 Canoes 4 days to go from Fort Snelling to Grace
 - residence. We landed Mr Potette and started
 back Mr R went on up to Lake Superior and
 Lake Traverse making arrangements to oppose
 the new opposition the 2^d day we got down
 with our canoe and went to work giving credit
 to the Indians the Indians were good this
 year from the Company than they had got in
 the three former years for they got long things
 that they asked for even to large quantities
 of liquor was given them after all the
 Indians were satisfied I took an outfit
 and went over beyond Cannon river to a
 place called the Bitterns Nest a large
 Lake on one of the branches of the Blue Earth
 river Mr A Lambault was wintering here
 for the opposition he had got long before we had
 built and was in a comfortable house when
 I got there and had given the Indians all a
 credit and started them off again so when
 I got there there was not an Indian to be seen
 I must work to build it commenced raining the
 next day after we got there and I never saw it
 rain harder in the summer than it rained then
 although it was late in November I built
 a little house for a store house one for my men
 and then one for my self we had to make mud
 chimneys which was very difficult for the
 snow had fallen near a foot deep and was

very cold we had to heat all our water
 to make our Chummys with we set up 4
 poles then tie sticks across about a foot
 apart then take mortar and some long grass
 and make slabs about 2 feet long and lay
 it over the cross piece, and bring the two ends to
 gether at the bottoms and stick them together
 and so go on until we go round the square
 leaving a space in front for a fire place we
 make Chummys narrow and burn our Wood End
 wise and we make a very hot fire in this way
 and generally have very warm houses as we
 place the Chimney in one corner of the room
 fronting the whole room and makes the
 room in the house when the rooms are small
 we build our Chummys from 10 to 14 feet high
 all of Mud and Hay or grass with the four poles
 to hold it up until it gets dry when the poles
 generally burn out and the Chimney stands
 by its self and I have used one Chimney for
 3 years with a little repairing here & there
 the winter during all I could to prevent the oppo-
 sition from making any thing sold goods for any
 thing we could if was about half price only
 of the value of the goods we would sell to keep
 them from going to the opposition and because
 they had to sell at the same rates or they could
 not get any trade in the winter the Indians
 at traverse desaint about 30 Miles West of us
 they had had a drunken frolic and had killed
 one the Murder had fled all at once an Indian
 came into my house as black as black could
 be made the Indian woman when they saw him

ran away. I made some Enquiry about
 the fur they told me that was the Murderer and
 was all afraid of him. I said nothing to him
 but gave him some supper and he laid down
 and went to sleep but at day light he was
 off fearful that some of the relatives might
 be after him on Sunday when he commits a
 Murder paints himself all black and puts on
 the meanest old clothes that he can get and goes
 that way until the troubles are settled either
 by present, or the Murder is killed by some of
 the persons relatives, there is now and then
 a case of Murder that is done that is done
 unbeknown to any body which is never known
~~and~~ but this does not often happen here in paper
 the winter enjoying each other as we could when
 we could not do any thing else we used to induce
 each other to run off and do all the mischief
 Chief we could to injure the trail for each
 other in the spring we took out our packs
 by my opponent got the most of the trade
 as he had got into the country long before me
 and got all the good hunters and of course made
 the best trade the company sent me back to
 pass the summer and be ready for the busi-
 ness the next fall so I went off alone and
 left my family as I had no provisions I
 did not want to take my family out there
 to half starve so they went and staid with the
 old folks until I should return so I went
 to my old mentoring ground and planted some
 potatoes to have for the winter for I had pass-
 ed the winter before on bread and meat

Which is not very healthy living whilst I
 was out here We heard of the defeat of the Fox
 and Sank Indians at the Baday and the Sioux
 that were about got up a great scalp dance
 in honor of the great victory gained by the White
 and Sioux Indians, We had no provisions
 and all we had to live on was a few fish
 that we caught in a small net that we had
 and we boiled them in water and eat them
 with a little salt was all that we had for
 two months one day as I was sitting out
 doors hunting furs of which all the Indian
 traders hail as a line with to and behold
 who should present himself before me was the
 Indian that I had the furs with when I fi-
 -rst went to trade on the St Peter river old
 grudges apparently had worn away and
 he was quite friendly I gave him some turtles
 Eggs and fish and he made a Meal and Meat
 Soff and I was glad to see his back for I
 never liked him after our first trouble when he
 threatened to kill me at the end of two months
 I started in to see what was going on with
 the trades on the way I had to cross a stream
 thus took the horse up to the back and got out
 and had to travel all day in wet clothes as
 it must my clothes did not dry on me and
 laid down at night in wet clothes I had
 an Indian with me for a guide he made a
 good fire and he roasted a sandhill crane
 crane that I had killed during the day
 Every now and then we would hear the whistle
 of a Buck Deer they would out of the

Bushes and in the fire and stars of Whistling
 and blowing at a wonderful rate In the morning
 I felt some what unwell but tramped on and got
 into our depot at Souds End found Mr Labat
 a Sioux halfbreed in charge Mr Labat could neither
 read or write was a good trader and kept
 his accounts by figures of representation such
 as animals and birds according to the name of
 the Indian if it was a Bear the Shape of the bear
 was made for the Mans name and counted accor
 to the name Eysuped and all things that an Indian
 gets is marked in the same way charged by making
 characters ^{an} old french at Souds End since by the
 name of Lablan Kups his accounts in the same
 way as he cannot read nor write but can make
 figures and Kups his accounts very correct but my
 family were off on a hunting Expedition the Day
 after I arrived I was taken sick with fever
 and ague and had to go to taking Medicine
 I staid about a week and started back with a one
 horse cart and some goods and a little provisions
 the first Night we had a very heavy shower and
 I had no tent and had to get under my cart
 and protect myself the best I could I was afraid
 of the ague again but I got home to my winter
 living place without getting sick We started late
 in the morning and met Mr Bailey who
 had come from Hastings that morning he told
 me he thought the two companies would be
 one very soon again So in about a month
 I was sent for and to abandon my Post you
 may be asured I was glad to get out of that
 lonely place and got back to Souds End

again and was not long in packing up the
 Indians as soon as they learnt I was going
 to leave turned in to stealing my Potatoes of
 which I had some very fine ones and in three
 nights they had about finished them When I got
 back to my old stamping ground Lands End
 I learned that the Mepis Harbours would
 not furnish Mr Bailey with any more goods
 they said they had sent into the country
 thirty thousand dollars worth of goods
 and had not made one dollar profit
 and the only way they they made both ends
 meet was by counting the remainder of old
 stock on hand was to put it at cost and
 by so doing which is not the case for what
 goods remain on our on generally more or less
 damaged but to get rid of Mr Bailey they took
 all at cost and told him to go as after sell-
 ing that amount of goods \$30000. dollars
 into the country and not making one dollar
 profit they would embark any more in
 the Indian trade this news made the Indians
 hang their heads again for they knew that
 they would have to pay for the feast they
 they had for the last year so a number of
 small posts were broken up and some new
 ones pushed further into the Indian Country
 and who should go was the ^{question for the} ~~matter of the~~
 new trading posts were far out in the prairies and
 in a country where there was little game when
 there was no Buffalo well I was called upon
 to go to one and Mr Laframboise was
 ordered to go to another

and Mr Bailey to keep him quiet and
 from inducing other oppositions coming into
 the country was made Chief Clerk for the Min-
 nesota river and Mounda was made the
 main depot for the whole Minnesota trade.
 I was ordered to prepare for Crooked river or
 Big Sioux a tributary of the Missouri and
 Mr Laframbois was ordered to the same
 river only some considerable distance
 higher up. The object of these posts in this
 barren and barren country was that it was
 reported that large quantities of Beaver were
 to be found in the Big Sioux and its tributaries.
 I went to work getting my equipment ready
 apart of the route was by water to traverse de
 Sioux and from thence in one horse carts Mr Bailey
 fixed every thing to suit himself goods and
 provisions and we all shipped in a Mackinac
 - a boat for Traverse de Sioux Mr women
 and children and Indians some by land and
 some by water in canoes. The Indians that
 accompanied us for to trap Beaver we had to
 take along a large quantity of Corn to feed
 them through the winter after we they would
 not go. They knew the country and were afraid
 of starvation the third day out it commenced
 raining and we had a tremendous storm and
 all at once a little before sundown the wind
 changed from the South East to West and
 blew a gale for an hour or two and very cold
 and it actually froze ice and the next morning
 there was not sleep hardly but what was
 frozen stiff and all the gardens spoiled.

this in the Morning of September 1st 1831
 We moved on the next Morning and in two days
 more we got up to the Traverse and found
 our carts and Horses already but the ho-
 -ses were poor things and some of them had
 not been worked but very little one of them
 we had to throw him to get the harness on and
 when he found he was over come he set up a sque-
 -aling more like a hog than any thing else and
 gave over struggling and laid quiet until we
 got the harness on and in fact was quite gentle
 after that we got all things ready loaded
 our carts 8 in number I had one cart for my-
 -self and family and we went off all in good
 spirits and Mr Bailey returned home from
 here and took charge of the whole concern
 Indians and Men and goods there were about
 one hundred Indians Men Women and Children
 the first day we got on very well and the 2^d day
 went to the crossing of the Minnesota river and
 found the river fordable and next day got all
 over and reloaded ready for a start in the
 Morning we had two french men hunters and
 I got an Indian to go as guide and hunter both
 and one of his Mother and a Cousin of his went along
 We went on very well although we had very
 heavy loads and the horses shoulders began to
 get sore and we had some trouble in getting
 the horses started from the soreness of their sho-
 -ulders We worked along until we got upon
 a branch of the Cotton Wood river our hunter
 found some Elk tracks and went in search of them
 in a little while we heard a gun and in a few

Munts another and Shatty after a call we had
 and our hunter came up and said he had killed
 an Elk the Men all raised a shout of joy for
 they had been living on corn meal gradually by hand
 we had taken along a corn mill for that purpose
 and when we would camp at our corn mill had
 to be set up regular and every night to grind
 corn for the Muns supper and for the next day
 not sifted and a very little grass to season
 their mush after eating of this corn mush
 the stomach eventually revolted at the sight
 of it and some of the Men cannot live on it
 and I will assure you they were glad to
 see venison once more I sent a Man and
 horse after the Elk they were gone about
 an hour and came back with the whole
 Buck Elk on the horse and it was just as
 much as the horse could pack and in fact
 staggered with the weight of the load we
 put the meat into the carts and went on
 to a large lake where we found some good
 dry wood and camped and staid one day
 to dry our meat and such feasting you
 seldom will see we got our meat and a
 little and started on and in two days we
 got to what is called the big clump of
 woods it is an Island is the cause of that
 being timber for the fire could not get to it
 this shows plainly that fire has been the
 cause of the most of the prairie as I have
 noticed in many other places in this country
 that where fire could not get to a piece
 of land that there is very large and thick

timber? This point is the head of the river
 desmoine it is a large grassy lake and
 great place for Muskrat and Water fowl
 consequently a great place for Indians
 as there is no timber for a long distance
 to the South and West at this place I ha-
 -lted and hung my grindstone and ground
 my axes and almost made up my mind
 to winter here but on further reflection
 I thought I would be better to go to the
 place where I was ordered whether I made
 anything or not as I knew the man that
 I had to deal with was a kind of self con-
 -cited character and if I should fail
 of making a good trade all the blame
 would be attached to me and the next
 morning I ordered the teams to be got
 up and harnessed and ordered each cart
 to take on a good stick or two of dry wood
 for we had two nights to sleep without
 woods and on we moved again thro-
 -ugh the wild open prairie once in a
 while we would pass a Buffalo trail
 from 6 to 8 inches deep and ranges but
 the animal we had not the pleasure of
 so much as seeing one we camped on the head
 of a little stream running south towards the
 Mispraine we now move fairly over the great eastern
 the great and renowned ridge that divides
 the waters of the Minnesota and Mispraine
 this ridge we could see two days before we
 reached it it looked like a blue cloud in
 the horizon stretching as far as the eye could

reach S.E. and N.W. this ridge is from thirty to forty miles wide and in the mountain or ridge the rivulets of the M.O. and Minn. take their rise in a great many lakes that are on the highest part of this ridge and the land is generally very uneven all over the length and breadth of it and a good place for wildfowl and rats here. We discovered a change in the color of the stone where ever we saw any more of a reddish cast and had the appearance of Granite the next morning we moved off in search of water for where we camped water was scarce and the horses could not get enough. About noon we arrived at the famous place called the Pipe Stone quarry here we found water but no wood and we camped and dug pipe stone one whole day we got out a considerable quantity but a good deal of it was ^{cut} ~~slab~~ and full of seams so we got only about 20 good pieces after working the rock all day we put in two blasts of powder but did not have much effect this quarry was discovered by the Indians but how and when we never have learnt it is on the head of a little spring branch in fact a part the stream takes its rise from under the same ledge that forms the quarry when it was first discovered appears to be near the top of the ground and runs south and lies flat between two pairs of solid rock that look like Granite the further you go south the deeper it gets also East it runs under the ledge that covers the quarry the North End of the diggings

Were about 2 feet deep and about ten feet
 wide and in stead of working eastward and
 under the Bank a ledge they have dug south
 and when I was there the diggers were about
 one hundred yards long and at the south end
 the diggers are about ten feet deep and the
 Jesse Stone is about a foot thick but in
 some from 1/4 to 3 inches thick in the deep
 part of the quarry there is more clay and the
 Jesse Stone is speckled otherwise pale white
 spots and some has a deeper red spots and
 some is a pure red and smooth as marble and
 fire does not crack it We got out a considerable
 quantity of which we made some very pretty
 flat pipes the Indians have labored here very
 hard with hoes and axes they only tools they have
 except large stones which they use for break-
 ing the rock as the fox and Saks did in many
 places with this difference the Fox and Saks
 used to make fire on the rock and when it was
 red hot they would dash on water this would
 crack the rock for some distance round
 and in this way they discovered some very large
 bodies of Mammals but the Saks used no fire
 and could not conveniently if they wanted for
 there is no more Mammal than half a day travel
 the Saks Clan of the West then get stones as
 large as two Indians can lift and throw it
 down as hard as they can and in this way break
 or crack the rock so they can get their hoes and
 axes in the cracks and pry out piece after piece
 it is very laborious and tedious and costs them
 considerable in the way of axes and hoes for

all they got. at this place there is a story
 as related by the Indians by the Indians that
 a young warrior gained his lady love by per-
 forming a feat which many an Indian shudders
 from with a terrible dread, a few rods
 East of the pipe quarry is a perpendicular
 rock with a crevice in it 3 or 4 feet wide and
 some 6 or 8 feet from the crevice stands a
 lone rock about 12 feet high about 3 or 4
 feet wide at the top and below is all around
 laying sharp and ugly craggy rocks a number
 of Indians had gathered there to see pipes
 and amongst them were a lone couple the
 young warrior had courted the lass for a
 long time but she did not care much about
 marrying so she took a plan to try his sincer-
 -ity as to whether he loved her or not so she
 told him she had heard that young man had
 leaped from the main rock to the top of
 the one standing alone the young man re-
 -monstrated and said that he did not believe
 that any body had performed the feat and
 lived but some of the old Indians were
 called and questioned and said it was a fact
 that young man had leaped across and back
 and their statements were confirmed by their
 pointing out a quantity of arrows and fea-
 -thers that they could see from the main rock
 it is a frightful looking the lone rock is
 about 12 feet high and small at the top and
 in jumping a step if he should loose his bal-
 -ance or slip and go over and fall amongst
 the sharp and crazy rocks below a fear

death. Would be the consequence in case a
 foot should slip it being only about one step
 across at the top. The young man saw by what was
 on the top of the rock some persons were had
 been on top of the rock and they must of got
 there by jumping over for there was no timber there
 to lay over to walk on. When the young man
 saw that the feat had been performed it gave him
 courage and he got his medicine out and prayed
 to the great god of the rocks, To Kon she, to give
 him strength and courage and dexterity enough
 to take him safe over and back after his coming.
 Was over he stepped himself and stepped back
 a few paces and ran up but stepped the Indians
 all shouted. Then a large Mumbo made the Prairie
 ring again toward and no girl you dont love
 her and soon singed in his ears this made him
 resolve either to die or succeed so the second
 time he made the leap and went with so much
 force that he came near going clear over for there
 was nothing to hold onto and all he could do was
 to jump and stand right where he struck when
 got on to the rock he found that there had been
 several over before him for every one that jumps
 over leaves some Memorial of the feat performed.
 The most he found were arrows and sun balls after
 he was over he found no difficulty in jumping
 back and claimed his prize and was married his
 love as the young woman now believed as he
 had got through such a dangerous feat for
 to get her. At the quarry we found a six pound
 cannon ball that Indians had brought there
 from the Missouri to break the rock in
 quarrying.

for pipes this cannon ball the Indians informed
 us was one that had been given at the Kickapoo
 in the time of war with that tribe on the M. C.
 river after we had worked the pipe stone quarry
 until we were tired we made preparations to be off
 as the Indians were getting alarmed for fear of the
 Enemy, although I never heard of any of them being
 killed at the pipe stone quarry in half a day we
 went from the quarry to the big Sioux river a tributary
 of the Missouri we camped and looked about
 for a wintering place and the next day found a
 place and camped there and went to chopping and
 rolling up log houses we put up some 70 or 80 feet
 in length and partitioned off as was wanted for
 rooms the Indians found there was no game
 and they all started off for the Missouri and
 to the Omaha village and there they passed
 the winter and made no hunt, one or two lodges
 came in from the Plains and trapped beaver about
 two musk and caught some 8 or 10 they had some
 dried Buffalo Meat and several other skins
 and whilst they were there a Court Ship started
 up within the camp of Prairie Indians and
 the young man got his friends to purchase
 the girl he had been courting but the offering
 was rather a small affair being 2 guns and
 a few Blankets and some trinkets they were
 taken to the lodge of the parents and laid down
 and their intent was made known but the
 father and Mother looked upon the offering
 with disdain and without any further ceremony
 told the Messengers to carry them off so they pick-
 ed up their duds and off they went a shame

as they said the young man took offence at this
or at the least thought this mischief had received
from the old folks and took his gun and went
out and shot one of the old man's horses this
raised the old man's pluck a little and he
started after the youngster with a short gun
in one hand and a war club stuck in his belt
and on one hand the old man had but two
fingers but he was a brave old fellow and
went to the lodge where the young man lived
and raised up the door the young man saw
the old man from the opposite side of the
lodge and mistrusted what the old man
was after and made a doe and under the
the bottom the lodge he went and out &
before the old man could get round the you-
-ngster was off and dodging about amongst
the trees so the old man could not get at shot
at his intended mark and the Indians got ro-
-und the old man and held him until his rage
was passed off a little and he went off home to his
lodge again the young man stood away all
day and at night came home to his lodge again
but the old man was on the lookout for him
and went back again although the young
man had cut a hole in the lodge to look out from
the old man had crawled up on them with
-out being noticed and raised the door again
the fellow inside out again and took
to the woods again the old man let go at
him but it was dark and he missed and
the Indians took the old man home and in
short time the young man came back again

and took his gun and went word to the old man and told him if he did not quit his attacks on him that he would go and kill the old man and take his gun and all he had and go off with it this frightened them and the old man quit with the loss of a horse and in a few days he moved off to hunt in the prairie and we were all peace and quietness again we went on with our building and got into winter quarters some time in December and we got along about living very well until the ice made then we had hard times, all the fresh game that I could get was some quail that were lying about the stream and were fat and very good only the name of them would naturally make a person splurge I used to shoot them and put them on a spit before the fire and roast them and they were very good to hungry appetite my men used to shoot woodrats for their fresh meat and once in a while a fat skunk the skunks I could eat some of it but the wolves I could not eat a mouthful of them they were awful strong far stronger than the skunk, meat all at once we saw a team coming a long distance off in the prairie who could it be was the word as we were not expecting any visitors and who should arrive but Mr Wm. Brown one of the old clerks of the Am Fur Company the company had put in with Mr Bailey to look after things a little for the company never liked Mr B. as he had given them the slip once before and got up an opposition that made them

loose all their profits the year before and
 something more along with it Mr Brown said
 he had come over to see what we were doing
 and what our prospects were for trade &c &c
 Mr Brown ordered me to follow up the
 Indians that had gone to the Missouri and
 try and bring or induce them to come back
 and hunt Beaver and if they would come
 back he Mr Brown would insure them a plenty of
 corn I started with a cart and two men and one
 horse and a small supply of provisions the first
 day we started one of my men killed a small
 Deer and a large Buck got away we camped
 at the falls of the big Sioux here the river is a
 -bout 20 yards wide but shoal and rapid
 being just below the falls of the big Sioux the
 falls are about ten feet and fall through
 so many broken rocks and crevices that you
 cannot see much water about the falls when
 the water is low in the morning we resumed our
 journey on down the river and kept constantly going all
 day and as the Sun was going down we dropped
 the big Sioux below the falls and camped tired
 and hungry and our Deer meat served us well
 for we had but a small amount of provisions
 I found that we could not overtake the
 Indians for from appearances they had not stop
 stopped only to camp and had pushed forward
 to the Missouri which was two days more
 travel in the direction that we were going
 that is to the Omaha Village so I concluded
 to turn back for I knew the Indians would
 not leave the Omahas when there was a plenty

of corn Dour and Some other Vegetables
 When as at our Wintering ground there was nothing
 but Musty corn and no grease to eat with it and
 the Men complained of it, having or having a
 burning sensation in the Stomach as it was only
 coarsely ground and not sifted. I turned back
 next morning and came back to the falls and
 camped the next day we were early at home Mr
 Porron started back to Fort Snelling again
 with a poor prospect ahead for a successful trade
 in that quarter the french man that came
 out with us to hunt left also as there but
 few Beaver and they all turned their attention
 to hunting Rats about the middle of winter a
 band of Supton Sioux arrived almost star-
 -ved and I had to turn in feed them on two
 considerations one was if I did not give them
 some corn they would kill my horses and eat
 them and then I could not get away from
 them in the spring for want of teams in case they
 should kill and eat my horses and another con-
 -sideration was this it was the party that took me
 prisoner and saved my life when I was in the
 -ippeewa Country the old chief Sumpung Devie
 told me do you recollect Sagah the time when
 the Indians found you in the Woods and Robbed
 you and wanted to kill you and I saved your
 life Now I want you to help me he said I told
 him I was willing to go as far as I could but
 he must recollect that I had a good many people
 to feed and that he must not think of my giving
 all my provisions out to them the old fellow
 looked Surly and did not say much

I had a bushel of corn ground and made
 two large Kettles of Mash and sent for all
 the Men and filled their Stomachs, and
 told the Man to take the balance of the
 Mash and take it home to their Children
 So they all had a feast the first day the
 next day I fed them again then I let them
 wait a day or two but the old chief came again
 and said they were starving I told him to move
 for he would starve us all to death Where can
 I go he said you see there is nothing but grass
 and water and then a bunch of trees along the
 river and the band held on for about 2
 weeks and I had to cook a large Kettle
 of Mash for them Every day in order to
 save my horses and the object of my cook-
 ing for them was that all might get a share
 and by grinding the corn I made it go further
 finally the weather moderated and they started
 and you may be assured I was glad to see
 them off for they were a rough set of ene-
 mies the weather kept on moderate and
 the big snow never broke up and early in March
 the wild fowl made their appearance to the
 joy of us all for we had been pined up there
 as you may call it five months in a land
 barren and destitute of most all game
 of any kind I had sent out to the heads
 of the Vermilion river tributary of the Miss-
 sippi in search of Buffalo but none to be
 found and we saw none nor eat any all winter
 except a little that I got from the old Man
 that wanted to kill the Indian for shooting his

his horse and that was dry and hard and I had
to pay two prices for it or a cloth blanket for 2
pieces of meat. When the big snow broke up the
water rose so high that we had to move out
of our house and go and camp on the prairie for
the water came into one corner of my house and I
feared we would get flooded out entirely and
I moved before hand but we had a severe time
out on the open prairie a north west set in
and blew a gale and got very cold and snowed
some more so cold that we could not sleep and
the wind blew so that we could not cook we staid
two days and I feared the deer would not see
any more. I went back to my house and tapped
a few of the soft maples and made a little
sugar. We had been out for a month. The
fall came so we began to kill some and began
to wear a little more white people again and
in a few days our Indians came straggling
along from the Omaha village on the M.C.
no furs or game and starving they had given
all their powder and lead to the Omaha
to feed them through the winter. Some of the Sioux
had a keg of powder each and in fact they
were best fitted for a hunt of any Indians that
I had ever seen fitted out for a hunt and it
all amounted to next to nothing for they did
not pay one fourth of their debts and what
was worse we had to let them have more po-
= wder for the spring hunt or else they could
not hunt in the spring so we supplied them
with powder again and they started for the
Munawaw and to hunt as they went along.

as there was no Beaver of any amount
 the Indians went hunting Muskrats in
 the latter part of April Mr Brown came
 over again to see if he could induce the
 Indians to hunt Beaver but it was no use
 there was no Beaver worth the attention
 of so many Indians and in fact they could
 not live so many of them where game was so scarce
 as I wrote Mr Bailey that the Rock of St
 = Hilena was a preferable point to the one he
 had sent me too after Mr Brown arrived we
 moved our Quarters to a point called the forks of
 the upper Sioux river with the expectation of getting
 some fish but we got disappointed and after am-
 = cining a few days half fed we pulled up stakes
 as the Indians had all left and there was no trade
 and no Indians to be seen or heard of one of the hands
 while hunting the horse to get them ready to start came
 upon a Skunk and made war upon it at once for
 to have a feast for the men were all hungry the dog
 made the first attack and got the first shot from
 the Skunk's Battery of Muck and sent him of ho-
 = celine the man then tackled the Skunk and he
 got a shot but the Skunk got a blow from the
 butt end of his whip landed Mr Skunk but the
 Man and dog came home completely used up
 in the Eyes neither of them could hardly see and
 their Eyes were terribly inflamed and very red and
 such a rotten smell we could not bear them about
 camp and kept them at a distance for two days
 we got all packed up and started for home
 once more the first day we went to the Pipe Stone
 = quarry and camped and made fire with wood that

brought with us from the big snow here we stoped
 one day and day pipes but we did not get many it
 was very difficult to break the rock and we had
 not tools fit for the business so we set out for home
 as fast as possible it set in to raining and we had
 a storm of three days which made it very dis-
 agreeable travelling for me here in the water from
 morning til night sometimes, wind drove sometimes
 or a strong stream made by the snow and rain and
 had to depend upon our guns for a living we fre-
 quently killed geese that were sitting and the
 would eat the eggs when they had young ones in them
 and the little Prairie Plover we killed a good
 many as we walked along by the side of our teams
 after much fatigue and misery we got back to
 the Minnesota river again and we had taken
 the precaution to bring a bark canoe and hide it so
 we could cross without much trouble from
 here we went to Swan Lake here we cut up the
 last monthful we had but the next day we got
 into the traverse de scout I for got to mention one
 circumstance at big snow river we had a
 son born named Abram, Prescott 31st Decr 1831
 When we got to the traverse we had a job to do
 to get our furs in order a great many of them
 had got wet and we spent 3 or 4 days in drying
 them and then took a Boat for Fort Snelling
 or Mendota where the companies post was found
 found all well Mr Bailey did not feel so well
 for our trade had not been very successful
 and we all turned in and went to making furs
 and summed up quite a number after all was
 in for some of the posts had made very good

returns and in they made between 3 & 4
 hundred packs Mr Brown & Mr Bailly could
 not agree so they dissolved and Mr Brown
 left the country and went to Mill crankie and
 settled down there and Mr Bailly continued
 the trade so Mr Bailly went down to P du
 -chen to get his supply of goods for another
 winter business and left me in charge and
 left with me a brother of Mr Palette a drunken
 crazy fellow he had been an officer during
 the last war but had been disfigured for some
 of his wild acts when Mr B left he left
 part of a cask of Port wine in his cellar this
 man found it and went to drinking and he kept
 crazy for about a week and of all the wicked
 men I never heard his equal finally I got a man
 to get into the cellar and pull out the tap and
 let the balance of the wine run out then we got
 peace to the house once more. I promised to send
 my eldest boy to school and Major Grooves
 the Subagent had informed me that the government
 had a free school what was called the Chocktan
 academy and that if I would send my boy then
 he would take him there with pleasure as he
 was going to take two of Mr Baily's boys as
 that we had to do was to furnish them clothes and
 pay their expenses there otherwise going to the place
 or academy so I agreed to send and got the boy
 ready and embarked him in the canoe along
 with Mr Baily's boys and off they started all
 at once I heard a cry behind me and look
 round and saw my old Mother in law a
 -trying to stab her self she had an old dul

knife and did not affect her purpose before
 I got to her and took the furs and threw it away
 in the evening the old woman took a canoe
 and followed on down the river and came to the
 place where Majis Grooms was camped and
 took my boy and walked off with him and
 brought him back again this made a fuss
 all round in our family my wife she got
 mad and went off and I said to myself that
 my son should not be raised amongst the
 Indians for the old woman had perfect con-
 trol of him when she was about and thought
 more of him than of any other or own children
 and as she had served me two or three times be-
 fore by carrying away my child in opposition
 to my wish and was making a perfect Indian
 of him I had determined that she should
 not have the control of him and was determi-
 ned to send him off the first opportunity that offered
 for the old woman had made relent the day
 that I had ever taken her daughter one of
 my children took sick and my wife in
 this mad fit because I scolded them for bring-
 ing the boy back had kept away for two weeks
 finally the child got so sick that she was compelled
 to come back and get the child some medicine
 but did not come into the house to stop but lived
 in her lodge some distance from the house with
 her mother and had the Indians conjuring over
 the sick child this was the old woman's work
 again and I was tired to the quick to see my
 children treated in this manner still they thought
 they were right and no doubt thought they

was doing for the best but still they would not
 put any confidence in what I told them about
 doctoring or the raising of our children. Doctor
 Jarvis was very kind and came over from the
 fort several times to see my child and finally told
 me that it could not live and medicine would
 do no good as ~~that~~ the child had the dropsy in
 the head and stopped visiting him. I told the
 Indians the doctors opinion about the disease
 of my child the reds said the child and laid
 the child, in a plank to some other Indians as
 having the power of new manny to bring in dis-
 ease. When they got opposed at each other the child
 died 8th Decr 1832. a few nights before we saw a
 singular phenomenon in the sky which appeared
 to be a shower of stars falling ~~the~~ ^{from} the ^{the} heavens.
 The Indians had a great crying spill after
 my child died I asked them why they did not
 cure it as they had laughed at what I told them
 about the disease they held down their heads
 and made no reply. So got my child up to the
 burying to bury it and Mr. Lalette was reading
 a prayer at the grave and a parcel of half breeds
 Roman Catholics were standing off a little
 distance and laughing at us as they never had
 seen a funeral in that form before and of a Protes-
 -tant fixture in a few days Mr. Bailey arrived
 with his goods and all was busy in making
 up our furs for the winter trade and I was
 to remain for interpreter for Mr. Bailey for
 the winter and my family had no house
 room about the fort so we had to go to
 Sande Ind and stop and I had to walk up

and down Every day a distance of 2 1/2 miles
 Making 5 miles a day Its got to and from my work
 This I had to do because Mr Bailey had no
 accommodation about him and a miserable
 revengeful wife Mrs Bailey a half breed
 and my wife a full blood had got in to some
 trouble about one of our little girls Mrs
 Bailey wanted me to live with her and help
 wash the children and my wife let I may go
 but she had not been there long before she got
 a whipping of which Mr B was remarkably
 fond of whipping other peoples children so
 my wife took her daughter away this off-
 ended Mrs B and it was so arranged that
 I could not have a house for my family and
 was the cause my traveling to land's end and back
 Every day and whilst I have been speaking on
 the whipping business Mr B had a little black
 child raised in the family and a young sang
 girl those two children actually believe
 would a get from 25 to 50 lashes a day and some-
 times more Every day ~~Monday~~ almost and
 I frequently would leave the house to get away
 from the miserable crying of those children ~~when~~
 when she was canwhipping them I felt the reproach
 and the trouble and misery I had for the thing
 revenge but I stuck to my work all winter
 back and forth and finally winter ended I
 got a house after Mrs B had gone to P.
 D. which and I got the use of her kitchen
 for my self and family and Mr Bailey went
 to law and left me in charge again This
 summer brought about another opportunity

in the person of Mr B F Baker the gentle
 man that brought up the Mississippi when
 I first came up to trade with the Indians
 this summer the Cholera raged through out the
 world and a great many people died on the Mississippi
 a party of Canadian men coming up the Mississippi
 then were some 4000 and the Cholera got amongst
 them when they were between P Deser and
 Lake Superior and when they got to the Grand En-
 campment about ten miles below Lake Superior
 they commenced dying but they were out in the open
 healthy air and but few of them died and
 they worked their way up to Fort Snelling where
 they got medicine from the Doctor of the fort
 about the time the traders up at the little rapids
 had got out with the Indians on account of
 high prices for goods as there had been no op-
 position for 3 years the Indians had to pay for
 the past good times they had when there was
 an opposition for then they got goods cheap
 the Indians of Little Rapids were mostly
 rovers in the Prairies and followed the In-
 dian (for a living) and had suffered a good deal
 for the want of ammunition the traders would
 not give them powder on credit and when
 they sold any they charged a very great price
 and the Indians were driven into desperation
 they shot and severely wounded a man by the
 name of Labat but as he did not die there
 was nothing done about it he fled to the
 Mississippi and that was the last of it this gave
 the other Indians encouragement and some
 time one of them stabbed old Mr Lambault

in the back but the old gentleman recovered
 the I ran off to the Mysore and wrote Wadsworth
 about it. Mr. Hamblitt had refused to let
 the Indian have a credit and out with his knife
 and gave him a dig in the back but it all passed
 off without further trouble. The summer passed
 off with out any particular incident, and Mr. Ba-
 =lley arrived from below with his winter supply and
 brought the old note, that my brother and I had
 given to settle up our old co-partnership bus-
 =iness first Baily & Prescott and again Bunnell
 and Prescott. I paid them all up in full ^{\$280.} and
 stood clear of the world once more again, and
 I thought of starting my boy off to school a-
 =gain as Major Groves was about starting
 for the East. So I got my boy ready again and
 put him in the canoe and sent him off to the Ch-
 =actaw academy but the time my family did
 not make any sensible signs of opposition
 but I was told the Old grand mother took
 on terribly about it. in the fall my time was
 out and I went over to Mr. Baily and asked him
 if he would trust me with some goods to trade
 up at Traverse des Sioux he was very glad to
 get me and we made our arrange ment, and
 I went back to Mr. Baily and told him my time
 was up and I wanted a little more. I had been
 sleeping in the sitting room after his wife
 came back with a sick child. I had to give it
 medicine in the night several times, and it was
 damp and cold in the lodge to which we had
 moved after Mrs. B. came back but I asked Mr.
 Baily's permission to sleep in the sitting room

on the floor and he off early in the morning
 out of the way but this did not suit the
 Madam and she ordered otherwise and we
 had to sleep in our lodge with our blankets
 but thank, be to providence my son still lives
 but she has gone to her long home. Mr Bailey
 asked me why I went to the opposition to get
 employment I told him he had made me
 no offer so I had accepted the first opportunity
 to get employment Mr said he if will give
 you employment will you stay with me
 I said yes knowing that he could not employ me
 otherwise I should have said no the company
 had more clerks than they knew how to employ and
 I knew I was the first one to let go therefore I made
 my arrangements with Mr Baker with out saying
 any thing to Mr Bailey but Mr B made no propo-
 sition so I went off over to Mr Bakers and bid
 the auctioneer for camp say good by for ever Mr R
 Little came up in a few days and he gave me an or-
 der on Mr Mirie the Teller at the for the balance
 of my pay which was about \$130. I purchased some
 goods and got a little money and got clear of
 them and went to work and got my equipment
 ready for the winter trade. and myself and Mr
 H. Moore whom was getting goods at the same place
 put our goods all into one boat and started
 off for a new business on our own account
 I stopped and built on the bottom or low land
 opposite Travers Island Mr Sackett and
 old frenchman that I have before mentioned
 that could neither read or write was trading
 for the A. Mc. Fur company on the opposite side

of the river has he had been there several years
 and had good hired lay hands both warm and
 comfortable and was built far from the river
 where the Spring freshets could not reach him
 but some of the old Mans clerks got caught
 once in the bottom opposite to his house they
 were over one day hunting ducks the bottom was
 all over flooded and is about 15 miles long and
 from one to two miles wide this whole bottom
 was under water and these two men that were
 hunting Ducks Messrs Hamblunt and D. Campbell
 were the persons they capsized their little hunting
 canoe and there was no land that they could reach
 and they climbed a tree and there stood all
 night calling for help one Indian heard them
 and started in a little hunting canoe to go to
 them but the wind was blowing very hard and
 the Smells ran very high and up set the Indian
 and he drewed the next day the Indians abo-
 -ut ten o'clock got over to them and relieved them
 of a most distressing situation noting the position
 they had to be in all night but their cloths were
 all wet and the night was very cold and they had
 to keep on the move all night to keep from freez-
 -ing they said they were sick for a week after the
 occurrence here I repaired the winter and made
 a very good trade and cleared about one thou-
 -sand dollars. I made a large Black Walnut
 canoe in the Spring and in two trips I got
 all my furs down and went down and passed
 the summer in traveling I went out with a sur-
 veying party to run a boundary line between
 the Seneca and Chippewa Indians according

to Treaty stipulations I was hired to go as
 Interpreter for the troops Mr D. Campbell went as
 Interpreter for the Surveying party and Mr J. Johnson
 was to go as Interpreter for the Cheyenne language
 but did not join us until we got the near the
 End of our journey the party was under charge
 of Major Beach he once been Lieut in the army
 and was sent for the Mispouri Indians but by some
 move had got out of them all and had now taken
 this contract to survey the boundary line between
 the two Nations I started up in a Mackinaw
 boat with a party of soldiers and a sergeant
 and a Lieut and another party had gone up
 by land and we all arrived at Sauter Rapids
 to gether or within the same day and the
 first river above this point called the Little
 Watah or the river where they got the timber across
 to see cunies with which we had some hard pulling to
 get our big Mackinaw over the rapids and
 in fact we had to put in two yokes of oxen to
 pull the boat through the Strogies part of the
 rapids finally we got all over and went and
 camped where the line was to cross the river
 and got the wagons and carts and all the other
 things ready for the tramp and the next day
 we crossed the river and the soldiers camped but
 the Surveyors men not ready but crossed the
 next day and took their latitude &c and
 the next day we got under way and made
 about ten miles up the Sank River and camped
 here we had to change our course and go west
 in order to strike the head of Watah river which
 was one of the points on the line so off we

Started right into the brush so thick that
 we could not see 5 rods ahead the teams
 and wagons and even cart, could not get along
 and we all turned in and went to cutting around
 and we all worked hard all and at night went
 back when we started from in the morning and camp
 - fed after we had got our supper and the surgeon
 looked over his days work he asked how far we
 thought we had come that day some some said
 5 some 6 some ten miles and so on well said the sur-
 - geon we just made one mile every body looked
 astonished and could hardly be made to believe
 that that was the case well the contractor said
 that never would do for him for he would
 be ruined if he did not get along faster than
 that and in the morning ordered the surgeon
 to take two mules and pack them and two
 men to lead them and go straight through the
 woods and the main party went round by the
 Lakonian and the Prairie and in that way we
 got along very well for 4 or 5 days when we
 came to the woods again here there was no
 chance to go round so we left all the wagons and
 carts and left 2 men to take care of them at
 a large lake when they caught a large amount
 of fish we took all the horses and mules
 and followed the surgeon through brush
 and swamps from morning till night and in fact
 we were wet all day long one night we camped
 on the head water of long prairie river when
 there was a lake with an island about 3 or 4
 hundred yards from shore on which we could
 discover a large quantity of forest ~~from~~

but could not distinguish what they were
 So some of the soldiers volunteered to swim
 over to them and save the worst 4 or 5 of them
 and found a roost of Cormorants and they
 knocked down about 100 of the young and
 tied them together and dragged them to the
 lake and put them in the water and walked
 and pulled their game after them until they cou-
 ld no longer touch bottom when they began to
 swim and reached the shore but they said they
 found it very hard work for there was caused
 crabs grasping the lake which impeded their pro-
 =grip as soon as they landed they all set to work
 to picking their birds and they made a great
 stew out of them but they tasted so fishy
 that nobody relished them. When the Sarayors came
 in they reported they had seen some Indians on the
 opposite of the lake we all went to bed as
 usual and the next morning the men went out
 to look for their horses they had not hung long
 before they returned and reported one male dead
 and another badly stabbed here was a fuss
 in the camp and we expected to be attacked
 and got ready to fend off the best we could
 and all sallied out to see if we could find
 the depredator but nothing was to be found
 but the horses so the contractor had the other
 male shot to put it out of misery we got
 ready and started as soon as possible and left
 the mules for the Indians to eat we learnt about
 a year afterwards it was the Chippewas they
 took to be Sioux Indians was the man
 they killed the mules but I doubt this statement

for our tents were plain to be seen which
 are so different from the make of Sioux that
 they could not be mistaken and I believe it
 was nothing but Wanton mischief that made
 them attack the Maits, which embarrassed
 the contractor a good deal by loading his other
^{and} Maits very heavy and made all their backs
 sore we went on without seeing any Indians.
 The roads were so dense that some one was every
 day got lost. I amongst the first got lost one day
 and probably should have been troubled very
 much to get back or forward as I had got off
 of the track and did think I was lost for some
 time after a while I gave a hoop but no an-
 -swer again & again but no answer more I
 found that I was lost and fired my gun off
 but no answer now I thought the thing was up
 and a thousand plans were in my head all in
 a moment and which was the best. I stood
 a few moments but heard nothing I fired my gun
 again and shortly after I heard a gun a long
 way off I fired again and heard two more and
 made off in that direction after a while
 I fired again and got an answer close by and
 in this way we got together again and after
 this I stuck pretty close to the party the contractor
 Major Blair complained and said I had made
 him lose nearly a whole day. and ^{we} went on and
 camped We found the next morning that we
 had got into a Swamp and no way of crossing
 and we had to go round about 15 miles to get back
 where we left in the morning or opposite the Ma-
 -d the of the Swamp was only about 50 yards

but so deep that we could not wade or ford it
 we took our course again and went to the
 edge of the prairie the next day and crossed
 the Chippewa river in the prairie about two
 days travel from Saginaw here we turned
 our course for Ottertail Lake nearly due
 north and got in amongst some lakes and when
 to go we did not know and hunted about three
 days for a place that we could get between
 the lakes whilst we were in this quandary Mr
 Johnson came up with two Chippewa Indians
 all were glad to see them for we were at a stand
 still and knew not where to go so the Chippewas
 soon put us right and in two days we were at
 Ottertail Lake the most northern point the
 lake is ten miles long and one clear sheet of water
 and a plenty of fish from this point we came
 back down to the outlet of the lake and took our
 course down the river the first day we got
 lost. We found 2 young Bears. the men all had
 sport in shooting with their pistols. at the little
 Bears and then again a great feast of the meat
 Lieut Storv who had command of the soldiers sent
 a note to Major Bean the contractor notifying him that
 that he could not go any further and gave for excuse
 that the the soldiers were out of shoes and clothes
 and the rations were low and for that cause the
 troops could not proceed any further here wrote
 back and forth half the night and in the morning
 Lieut Storv ordered the command to pack up and
 return and I will assure you the party were all
 well pleased for we were all tired and ragged and
 glad to get off but Major Bean said it would

sure him for the Govt would not pay him
 for what he had done Mr or Sicut Storer said
 he did not hinder him from going on the Major
 insisted that he was ordered to go through to the
 End of the line yps said Sicut Storer My Men
 Can not go bare foot and without food
 and gave the order to March and off we all
 started in about half an hour they the sur-
 veyors caught up with us Mr Bean had the
 night it was not well to try it alone with his party
 and followed on after us and run his con-
 -nection line as he went but from that time
 they did not speak to each other and they had
 not spoken to each other for about a week
 before they arrived at this place about three
 miles west of Ottotail Lake on the water
 of the river that runs out of that lake but
 is called the South fork of Red river and
 runs down by Lord Selkirk's Settlement in
 the north We made our back as fast we could
 Sicut Storer had got out of all patience he
 had been lately married to one Mrs Collette
 daughter of P. Ducharme she was quite un-
 well when we left and Sicut Storer was very
 anxious to get back in her account We got
 back to the Mississippi and the Sicut took
 his boat and left the party to finish up the
 survey by themselves as there was no further
 danger of being molested by the Indians
 and in chains We went down to the falls
 and footed it down to the fort here ended an-
 other Expedition that was of no benefit to
 the Government or to the Indians and the In-

- Scans destroyed all the land Markers they could
 find and in a few years a treaty was made that
 made the lines and boundaries of no use or
 necessity to either party about this time some
 Chippewas came down with Samtads, to
 get some goods at Mr Baker Store. The
 Scans had been out hunting some where up
 north of the Minnesota river and the Chippewas
 had come across them and killed some of them
 and they were determined to have revenge and
 now was their chance and they hid themselves
 in the bushes near the houses towards sunset
 and as one of them was going from one house
 to the other the Scans was in ambush for
 him and killed him and then ran up to scalp
 him the Chief Naticum the day heard the puff
 and ran out and just as he got out the Scans
 were in the act of scalping the Chippewa. The
 Chief fired his ball struck one of the Scans
 in the mouth knocked out three teeth and
 came out at the back part of the lower jaw
 and supposed to be mortally wounded but
 he got away and ran to Mud Lake a dis-
 tance of two miles in about 15 or 20 minutes
 there was a great commotion again in the
 whole community the Soldiers were ordered out
 after the Scans the Scans and Chippewas
 half breed, were bread making the harness
 and all kinds of preparation, were made
 for war the Soldiers returned but could
 not find the depredators the Chippewa
 as was supposed was found to be a Contin-
 or Cut Ear from some of the tribes about

Moekimaw—a half civilized pacible Native
 that had married a Pillager Chippewa woman
 and lived by boating and voyaging for the
 trade, the Boat Officer took the body and buried
 it in the grave yard near the fort the same
 So Enraged to think the White, showed so much
 respect to their Enemies, that they went in
 the night and dug open the grave and cut
 a hole through the Coffin and shot the dead
 body full of arrows and went off and left the
 grave in that situation they sent out and
 had another hunt from the fort for the mis-
 chief makers but could find nothing. they had
 all fled for the upper country so the thing passed
 over by the whites but the spirit of revenge which
 Ch. never slumbers in the breast of the Indian
 was not composed and only an opportunity to
 get satisfaction which offered one year after
 but a dreadful calamity followed upon the
 heels of the continuance of this revengeful spirit
 which I shall relate in its proper time in this work
 We got our outfit ready we set out in our old
 boat and I had ^{Rev} Mr. Vizzo in and Lady in company
 with me we went into the little rapids and camped
 over the Sabbath here I was troubled all day long
 by the Indians to trade I told them it was the Lords
 & Jesus day a fast and to pray and I could
 not work for trade this was a new thing to them
 and could not understand anything about the
 object or principle of the Sabbath but I kept
 them until next morning when I traded their furs
 and went on with my Nephew's family and
 got up to Wautung ground the 5th day

Rev S. P. Riggs was missionary for the
 Sioux and was stationed at Lacquette
 where Dr J. S. Williamson had lived some years
 and they were changing posts that they might
 be equal partakers of the privations of an In-
 dian life and manners and customs and spe-
 cially about the Missions when I was going up
 a few years before with Mr Bailey the trader
 I took out some tracts and went to reading
 one day as we were going up in the boat. Mr
 B. looked at them and asked me what I was
 reading I told him some tracts he commended
 I meaning and said do want to sink my boat
 I said No well he said if you go to reading those
 papers on my boat. I am sure she will sink before
 we get up Mr Bailey is a Roman Catholic by tra-
 dition but in spirit is an infidel I unloaded my boat
 and moved into my old house of last winter and
 went to work and gave my Indians some credit and
 they went off and killed game enough to pay their
 last credit and took more credit for the winter
 this made me short of goods and I had to send
 for more to Mr Baker at Camp Cold Water near
 Fort Snelling the old summer encampment of
 the troops when they first moved up to build
 the fort I had but one man so I put him into
 a canoe and sent him off with an order for what
 wanted and to hire a man to help up with the
 canoe and load the man went down and
 got his load and the first night they camped
 near the fort and made up a plan to steal the
 goods and ran off so they took the heavy things
 and hid them in a manure heap about the fort

Stable, amongst the things he had were three Indian
 Guns some axes and a corn mill and the day
 gone as they sold about amongst the Saldie
 for a little or nothing and put off down the
 river and Mr Baker did not hear of it for
 2 weeks he immediately started a man with
 me with a few men to inform me of
 what had transpired I had been waiting very
 anxious about my man for nearly three weeks
 near drawing of his having ran off so he had
 a squaw and she was living in a lodge near
 by my house and I thought certainly he would
 come back to her again but he was too much
 of the old Saldie for us all as he had been
 an old Saldie in the army he had learnt
 many bad tricks and the worse of them that
 I supposed all the time he was sick or some
 accident had happened him when all the time
 he was in Prairie Duchan leaving on what
 he had stolen from me I got Mr Baker to
 arrest him and offered a reward of \$25.
 he was apprehended and put into prison and
 kept there for three months but I did not go to
 prosecute the case and he was set at liberty
 and he threatened anyone for false imprisonment
 but he never tried it and left the country after
 having made loose \$350 the made a big hole
 in my profits for the price of furs had gone
 down very much Muskrats declined three
 300 per cent or rats that were worth the year
 before 40 cents were now worth only 10 cents
 so concluded to pass the winter a lone and went
 to chopping my own wood for the winter

this I found pretty hard for I had never chopped
 much but in a few days my hands got hardened
 and the blisters all healed up and in one month
 I had wood enough for the winter. Chopped
 about the time the old folks my wife, father
 and mother arrived from belab to pass the winter.
 With a sick daughter and a few days after
 we received a letter from the school super-
 -damey stating that my son was dead this
 set the old folks (wailing at a terrible
 rate and if one of these or one of our children
 died they could not and did not take on so
 much as was from a few days after
 when their daughter died. My son appears from
 the letter he got died of bellous Plumsy &
 the old folks daughter of grief in the side
 internal. I never heard such wailing and wailing
 the woods fairly resounded for miles around from
 the hilltop of the old Man and Woman at
 the death of my son. I felt bad at the thought
 of the circumstances and the trouble and the cause
 of my sending him off but I thought of the great
 Ruler of the Heavens and the Earth and that
 the Lord had taken what was his own and
 though probably my son had been some
 other calamity and that God had foreseen the
 and had taken him home before some great
 trouble overtook him and I bore up with
 the affliction better than those that have no
 hope and believing that someday I should
 see my son again in peace but my poor Indian
 Relations had no hope and there for could
 not be comforted and Mourned at a terrible rate

Six more than a year after the death of
 my son I learnt the situation that my son
 had been in at the Chaatawa Academy Major
 Grooms had spoken of the institution in
 the most glowing terms and said he was very
 glad to get the chance of sending his sons to
 the academy and told me it would be a good
 place for my son the following is what
 I was told by Mrs Baileys says that went
 to the same place at the same time that the
 children got only one meal a day and if they got
 any thing more they had to go and beg of the cook
 sometimes they would give a little and sometimes
 not and would have to go from noon until
 the next morning before they could get any thing to
 eat and they were only half clothed and in
 fact they said the Indian children amongst the
 wild savages were better cared for than they were
 when I heard of this my blood ran through my
 veins first cold and then hot with rage at
 the old Major Grooms who had told me all about
 the Chaatawa Academy was so nice and pleasant
 and the children were so well cared for if I could
 have got my eyes on him nothing could have kept
 me off of him my son whilst he was sick had
 no nursing at all and when he would cry for
 water the old brute of a negro woman
 would whip him for crying for water and food
 I never shall forgive myself for sending my boy off
 to school amongst strangers but the old woman
 was the cause she always would vex me by
 taking the boy and carrying him home with her
 I told her she never should have him and in

in retaliation for my rashness to keep my
 son from the old woman he is gone from
 both of us and Mary is the hour I have passed
 in sorrow over the miserable death of my
 poor boy away amongst strangers and but worse
 better treated than the brute beast. O. Shame
 on a government that would have an institution
 of that kind and have no person to oversee
 the business and see that the children did not
 suffer but death relieved him from suff-
 ering and God in his wisdom took him on
 his purpose to take him out of misery and
 brutal treatment and is now better off in
 hope than his persecutors and may God be praised
 for his good gifts and wisdom for delivering my
 child from tyrannical hands and I do not
 say any thing more about Major Grooms only
 I hope the Lord will reward him according
 to his deeds in deciding me in the manner he
 did in getting my child off to school where
 there was neither regulation nor food a poor bed
 and nothing but Negro shanties to live in and
 for this the Govt paid Mr Johnson \$25,000.
 Twenty five thousand dollars a year a complete
 game of swindling at the expense of poor
 innocent and suffering children the thoughts
 of the thing is enough to chill any one's blood, and
 I must draw the veil to relieve my mind
 from the subject the old folks had not been
 there long before their daughter died very sud-
 -denly the abscess broke inwardly and she died
 instantly but the old folks did not make
 half the mourning that they did over the death of

of my son the sudden death of this young
 girl set me to reflecting about my future state
 and what would become of me if I should die
 suddenly and with out repentance I should lose
 my rights to the promises of God of eternal life and
 be barred from enjoying that Bliss offered to all
 the repent and turn unto the Lord the two deaths
 so close one upon the other made me reflect seri-
 -ously and the longer I went the more I thought on
 the subject and commenced praying in secret and
 finally made up my mind to join the Church
 and I found no peace until I did make up my mind
 to do something and I kept on at my work through
 the winter hauling wood and trading and at last
 spring came and I commenced making my packs and it
 commenced thawing and raising the water commenced rising
 and rose so much that it came all round my house
 and I was afraid of being flooded out of my
 house and I moved all my packs and put them
 on a scaffold out doors but the water set in
 cold and the water fell again and stood low
 and we got down in safety, my self and Mr. alone.
 I packed the summer out at Lake Huron where the
 McPherones live Messrs S. & E. H. Ponds and Mr. Ste-
 -bens the Messrs Ponds had lived already 2 years
 alone before Mr. Stearns came up there but after
 Mr. Stearns came they all joined to gether for a
 year or two and kept a very funny school re-
 -built a small house out the lake also and
 during the summer I joined the Church and was
 happy and comfortable under the influence of religion
 and wrote my brother at Virginia State of N. Y.
 of what I had done he wrote that he thought

I would or had said my all for a piece in Heaven
 or that the religious people had persuaded me
 to join them to get something from me and he
 thought the whole was a Chimera and I had
 better leave them. I think was about the amount
 of what he wrote me but his advice did
 not jar me in the least and I stuck to the
 work of Prayer and believe I never shall be
 sorry for the step I took in joining the Church
 for Repentance and faith had got fast hold
 upon me and I was determined to live by it and
 I never have seen the time yet but what I could
 say I wanted more of the love of God and a better
 & greater discourse somewhere and my Saviour during
 this summer a large number of Chippewas came down
 to visit the Sioux by invitation of the Sioux the chip-
 pewas stay several weeks feasting and carousing
 with the Sioux Indians and there were judged to be
 about 1000 Chippewas men women and children
 and as they were leaving two Pillagers relatives of the
 man that was killed by the Sioux the summer before went
 out to Lake Calhoun to see if they could get a scalp
 they said the Sioux owed them one and they went
 and placed themselves on a trail that leads from
 Lake Calhoun to Shetek about half a mile south
 of Lakeharriet, or a mile and a half south of Lake
 Calhoun and hid themselves in the bushes after a
 while an Indian came along by the name of Neha
 one of the best Indians in the Lake Calhoun band
 as he passed they the two Chippewa Pillagers shot
 him and took his scalp and made off the
 news spread in half a day all over the country and
 the next morning the Sioux to the number of about 300

Were off on a war Excursion they traueled all day
 and all night and just at daylight they came
 up with the Chippewas a part had gone by rice
 river and some by the Mississippi and some by the
 St Croix those that went by Rice river were
 mostly Mill Lac Indians and were going to make
 a portage into Nam river and had just crossed
 a lake and was carrying their canoes and baggage
 across the portage when they attacked them and killed
 of men women and children so odd persons the Ch
 ippewas were surprised and could not account for
 the conduct of the Sioux as they had parted a few
 friendship only two days before the Chippewas
 fought bravely to save their children and the
 Sioux lost fifteen of their Braves and the party
 that went by St Croix Little crees band fo
 -lowed them and attacked them about the same
 time the battle on rice creek they killed about
 -20 Chippewas so that in about one hour time
 there was one hundred Chippewas and some
 slain for the mischief of two Chippewas if the
 Chippewas had notified the others they would
 have been on their guard and got out of the way
 but as they knew nothing of what had taken place
 they were traueling a very very innocent thinking
 of no danger until they heard the war whoop
 and the next thing a discharge of guns and the
 shrieking of the women and children the Chip
 pewas fired and retreated and saved a large part
 of their women and children the next morning the
 Sioux arrived with their scalp they made great show
 and parade over their success and danced a
 while and went off home to their villages

to spend a month in dancing the Scalp dance
 the Chippewas that went by the Mississippi got off
 without being attacked by the Sioux the ones that desired
 chastisement the most if any were the ones that got off
 with a whole skin for then is no doubt but the two
 men that killed the Sioux went and joined that camp
 and probably had the scalp at the time the innocent ones
 were selling their lives at a dear rate I got my winter
 supply of goods and went up with Mr Men again in
 his boat but I had to go for the boat first from fort
 Snelling to a place called the little Rock upon the Murre
 = Sota I had first to go in a canoe to Traverse des Sioux
 in a canoe then I portaged it from there two by land &
 making in all about forty days hard work to get a
 boat and then five days rowing to get back and
 then had to row back to Traverse des Sioux again
 which kept me pretty busy all the fall to get my
 work round in time this season the Indians had
 been to Washington and made a treaty and sold all
 their lands on the East side of the Mississippi and
 returned home the four November one old chief got
 crazy and jumped over board and was lost in
 the treaty the Indians gave the traders, a hundred and
 ten thousand dollars and the half breeds \$90,000
 I made my way up to my old wintering ground
 I made good return but the fur was worth
 nothing of any account and I lost money and Mr Ba-
 ker lost so much that he had to suspend business
 for he was so much in debt that the Wapros
 Parbels would not trust him any more I had
 been quite sick in the winter and I wrote
 down and got Mr Samuel Pond to come up
 and keep house for me whilst I should go down

and see the Doctor So Mr Pond came up
 and I went down and staid a month and
 came back and Mr Pond went up to Lacque
 Parle to see Dr Williamsons family he suffered
 very much going up he told me still the Indians
 do not appreciate their sufferings to try and tea-
 -che them how he like white men and all the Ind-
 -ian appear to care for is something to eat
 and Religion and gammy is the last thing in
 their minds and there is a plenty of white men
 to keep them in ignorance and use all
 their influence to thwart the moral and civilization
 the Indians I bought Mr Baker out and he agreed
 to furnish me with goods and papered the Cann-
 and made a little at trade Mr after having given up
 the Indian trade went into the Settling business
 and commenced a large Saw Mill at a place ca-
 lled Factors falls on the St Croix and spent
 some 14 or 15 thousand dollars and was then sick
 and the trouble about his business being very mu-
 -ch embarrassed he went to St Louis and died
 of Consumption this broke up all his business
 and all his traders were left out of employ
 went again I lived in his house during the
 winter and toward Spring I had an offer
 from the officers of the fort to go down to the
 St Croix and take charge of a claim they
 had taken up for a town site they agreed
 to furnish me with one thousand dollars to bu-
 -ild a house and a store house with and give
 -me one eighth of all the land and buildings
 I had nothing to do so I accepted their offer
 and went to work and got the body of my house

up and went home to see my family and while
 I was gone a man by the name of C. D. Host
 a carpenter of the St Croix Mill Company came
 and jumped my claim I went to talk with
 him about the right & the ^{case} ~~right~~ was brow-
 -ght before J. R. Brown Esqr Justice
 who lived on what is called Gray Cloud Island
 and had a Whisky shop up near Fort Snelling
 where he kept a man by the name of Menck
 an Englishman to peddle the Whisky for
 him this Establishment was an eye sore
 to the officers for the Soldiers used to go there
 and get Whisky and get drunk and made
 a great deal of trouble for them and the
 Indians used to go there and get Whisky and
 kick up a fuss and this was the cause of the
 citizens all being drove off from the
 reservation J. R. B's Whisky shop for none of
 them kept any but him and to get rid of him
 the Commanding officer had order to move all
 persons off that were not there by authority of
 law that is Indian traders and a license
 and it is very likely if Mr Brown had not
 established a Whisky shop in the vicinity of the fort
 that the citizens never would have been drove off from
 the reservation by the military for this liquor traffic
 gave the officers a great deal of trouble one day
 the Indians went over to the Whisky shop and
 broke all the kegs and poured out the Whisky this
 was all charged upon the Indian agent and
 a warrant was procured from Dubuque for his
 apprehension and one night about mid night
 the Sheriff and the man Menck came to Major

Salupinos room and were admitted and
 they took the agent and held him down to
 his bed for some time and extorted some promises
 from him and kept him in until morning when the
 Major's servant went to the fort and told the comm-
 -sioning officer he sent an officer to Ensigner near
 the Matter and found that a Sheriff and Mr. ^{Minck} ~~Stett~~
 had seized the agent with a warrant for getting
 the Indians to break up Minck's liquor Estab-
 -lishment. The commanding officer sent a guard
 out and had the Sheriff and Mr. Minck marched
 off over the river and forbade to put them just
 on this side the river again. This made a great talk
 about the Military Department regarding the civil law and
 ready to take prisoners from the custody of the Sheriff
 but it blew over and after a while another
 one tried the whisky trade again by the name of
 McDonald a Frenchman he came to the fort one
 day and was taken and put in the guard house
 and kept there a month and was not let out until
 he promised not to buy any more whisky there to
 sell to the Saldier. He promised to do so and then put
 a stop to whisky selling to the Saldier, but in a
 short a month after a Sheriff appeared there and
 took the commanding officer for imprisoning a
 peaceable citizen. He but the officer ordered the
 Sheriff out of the fort again and he went off
 without any prisoner and that case went by the
 board and the whisky trade was stopped for a
 time but the people that had been drove off of the
 reserve at the point of the bay out had commenced
 at New below the line of the Reserve near St. Paul
 and the traffic commenced a new and is carried up to

the present time, but St Paul would have been
 some when about when ~~the~~ Fort Snelling
 is if the citizens could have remained when they com-
 menced settling for the first settlements were all about
 the fort. I must now go on with my law suit in
 which Jos P. Brown was the Justice of Peace I
 sued Hoot before Brown, the first trial the Jury
 could not agree and mistrial ordered and the Jury
 could not agree and I found that Every influence
 possible was working against me the Justice would
 like to see my claim taken from me because the of-
 ficers had an interest and in fact Brown was
 the whole Brown felt some about the Wh.
 isky Shop being broken up for it a source of
 quite a little in come to him and he would
 like to see the officers injured in return if he
 could do any thing to injure them and here it is
 I supposed he did all he could to get a Jury that
 would decide against me but my proof was too
 strong and the work showed too much for any
 just jury to decide against me but then men
 enough always to make a split and keep me in
 expense which had now come to over \$200
 I told Hoot to take half the claim and we settled
 upon that that the officers did not like but it was
 the best I could do and so it stood Mr Brown
 after this went up to the head of the Lake St Cass
 and took up a town site and lived on Bay
 Island and himself built a large house at
 the upper end of Stel water and made arrange-
 ments for a District court to be held there but the
 day appointed Mr Brown was absent the Judge
 came and found no preparations and nothing to do

and the Judge went off scolding Mr J. P. Brown had been appointed clerk of the Court and was not to be found and McCourt of course Mr Brown had left his first wife a Sault half breed Miss Ellen DeKoon. and Maed a Chippewa half breed he got a divorce from her on the flimsy excuse that he wanted to go to trade with the Sault Indians and he was afraid they would kill his wife he took her along and got divorced and went and Maed a Sault half breed whom he lives with up to this time and as many more as he likes after my arrangement with foot I went on to work and finished my house at the mouth of St Croix but there was no business there at that point there was one little boat that done all the business call the Rock river this boat run from Galena to the fort once a week and there did not get enough to pay her expenses I frequently piloted the boat from St Croix to Fort Snelling I made a little farm but there was no market for any thing and nothing to be made Mr Foot after our settle ment left a man to live on his part of the claim but the St Croix Mill Company dis charged him saying they had not hired him to go about stealing other peoples claims and they were afraid to trust him for fear he would play them a trick and he went off and left his bar man there for six months I was on the watch all the time to get an opportunity to jump my claim back again so some time after the six months were up the man went off on day to see if he could sell the claim to get his pay and whilst he was gone I took my ax and a witness and went marked the claim over in my name and put a padlock on top of his and

left it so the next day he came home and found he
 was fastened out he talked pretty strong about
 it for a while and threatened to break the lock &c
 I told him we had a Penitentiary for people that
 broke locks this did not suit very well. and he
 stopped his threats and a friend of his advised him
 to compromise the matter. he all he wanted was
 his pay for what he had been there I told him
 I would give him \$50 dollar, he agreed to take it
 and moved off and I was once more left in qu-
 -it possession of my claim but I was making nothing
 and had spent about all that I brought with
 me and was now about flat broke again the winter
 of 1842:3. was one of the severest winter I ever saw the snow
 fell first about a foot and a half and melt off mostly and
 fell again over a foot and mostly melt off again and
 in January fell near two feet again making in all
 nearly four feet of snow I lost some 70 Hags and
 Pigs for the want of food my crops had been smothered
 tight my cattle got through the winter for there was
 a plenty of Rushes and the cattle could get the tops
 of them and on the Island, there was brush and brown
 so I saved my cattle that was all I had left in the
 Spring of 1853 I farmed it a little I had taken into
 my house 2 Misses Missinones they got their
 word of me and I sold some wood to the steam
 boats in the; May I dragged the Survey through
 Messrs Gaven and Denton gave me one hundred
 dollars for house rent and wood from their Miss
 -in society during the summer we had a law suit brot
 on by a man from Galena by the name of Waddell
 against Henry Jackson of St. Paul I was the
 only Justice of the peace near about and they brought

The case before me the first was to Refuse a lot
 of goods that Waddle said that Henry Jackson
 had obtained of him by false pretence so I signed a
 writ of Replevin and off we started in the old
 Rock River Steamboat and such another crowd
 of river blacklegs I never saw we got up to St
 Paul and the party having the writ went up to Mr
 Jacksons Store and found it fastened they demanded
 admittance but word was no they party outside
 threatened to break the door down and they all
 got their Pistols and Bowie knives and flourished
 them a while and were enough to sink a boat
 if there was any weight in the oaths but the party
 inside thought it was best to let them in and the
 writ was served and the goods boxed up and put
 under my charge and the day for trial came on
 and the suit was quashed or non suited and Mr
 Jackson got the goods back again and Mr
 Waddle went off with his fingers in his mouth
 back to Galena & took drinking and did as he had
 run through a good store of goods and wasted them
 all St Paul about this time was a den of
 card players and a place for the Soldiers to go to
 get Liquor and they used to have some high times
 amongst the blacklegs in those days In the fall
 of 1843 I received a letter from Col Bruce the
 Indian Agent offering me the Interspersion both
 as he had discharged his old interpreter I went and
 accepted the office and came down and made
 arrangements to move my family and got a man
 by the name of Joseph Norton to move into
 my house and gave him all the Cattle & rails from
 the farm and one half of the Cattle and moved

Up and settled down in one of the old stone
 houses near the fort Sept 1843 and entered upon
 the duties of Interpreter for the Government a contract
 was written out and signed and I was sworn into
 office here I commenced another kind of life and my
 hands were full of business all the time in writing I
 interpreting and looking after the farmers and the wants
 of the Indians about every month the Indians would
 get up some excuse to converse with the agent or the
 commanding officer and the word up would be a big
 for some provisions or a charge for cutting lumber on
 their lands or fire wood sometimes the commanding officer
 would give them a few rations and they would go off
 satisfied for a while until they would get hungry for
 Bread they would come again after the great battle
 when the Sioux killed many of the Chippewas Major St-
 -clair advised them to move from Lake Calhoun as
 he thought the Chippewas would come down and
 and kill the whole band of them but the real cause
 of getting them removed was to get them further off
 from the settlements for most every there were complaints
 brought against the Indians for killing cattle and they
 were constantly hanging about the fort and the officer
 complained of them being a nuisance to the fort the In-
 dians said they were not afraid of the Chippewas the agent
 kept advising them to move from the lake down to
 the river and then they would be more secure from
 the Chippewas and finally got them started and they
 moved onto the Minnesota (and mixed up with the band
 (most of them) that lived on the Minnesota, but still this did
 not get them out of the way of the Chippewas for they would
 come down in their Bark Canoes and land above the falls and burn
 their canoes and across over to the road that leads from the

They got to the village and shoot down one or two
 and run off and in most every path that was used
 the Chippewas would way lay them they came down
 in large numbers and attacked Little Crow's village
 the Sioux were all drunk they rushed over the river
 to attack the ~~Siou~~ Chippewas some with guns some
 with canoes some with knives only the man body men
 in the long grass and two or three of the Chippewas
 went out to the village the main fort was on the west
 side of the river (Little Crow's band was the one attacked)
 the first Bands that went out found a woman the wife
 of a Canadian having come they shot her and gave the
 war hoop and ran up to save her the french man
 ran to her relief but by this time three or four more
 Chippewas got up and some of them kept the french
 man off whilst the other took the scalp and
 went off shouting at the same time some other chiefs
 was attacked at day and killed a woman and child
 the Indian had two wives one was with him in
 a white man's house near by where his other wife was
 killed but the man had no gun and dare not venture
 out and the Chippewas went off rejoicing back to the
 main party shortly after the Sioux got over and must
 ed on to the Chippewas a large number being secreted
 in the grass the Sioux did not see them until they got close
 to them the Chippewas rose from their ambush and
 fired and wounded and killed fifteen the first shot they
 took their hats and ran off and a few Sioux that were
 not hurt followed in after them and killed five of them
 their timidity made them lose the honor of the day for if
 they had of stood their ground in a few minutes they
 could have killed all of the men and then they could have
 went and killed their women but they were too big cow

carcasses and made off the scout following
 the Sioux were only five in number that kept up the
 chase for about five miles. When they killed the last Chip-
 pewa that was to be found there were all 380 Chippewas
 and only 30 men of the scout and half of them were shot
 down the first fire of the Chippewas some were old
 men and had only knives and did not follow. This
 left Littlecrows village in pitiful state the
 young and wounded men all with the dead brought in
 and laid out in their own lodges and a great day
 of lamentation and mourning it was the Doctor came
 down from the fort and some troops were sent down
 but the Chippewas were all off out of the soldiers
 reach and they went home as they came, Littlecrows
 felt that he had received a chastisement that he had
 deserved for he had been in the habit of going on sun-
 -day out two or three war parties every summer and kill-
 -ing some of the Chippewas this blow cooled him do-
 -wn he never went to war again. I had not been in
 my new office long before an order came from Washington
 for the agent and commanding officers to make an effort
 to stop the whisky traffic which had gotten to
 such an alarming extent that every few nights an In-
 dian would be killed or frozen to death I had to
 be out some times every night sometimes once a week
 watching the Indians with a party of soldiers we caught
 a great many and broke their kegs one night we took
 seven kegs and the Indians with them and the next
 morning the commanding officer sent for me I went down
 to the fort Capt Backs was in command he came
 along laughing as he said you have been running
 the mail again have you yes Sir what back had
 you of kegs I said my you have got enough for

The whole for we must go and look at it so he told Sam Saldun to take the 7 kegs to the top of the hill out side the fort and ordered the Indians to be brought out and took an axe along in his hand several persons had gathered round and Captain Backus told the Indians if they did not stop carrying Whisky into the Indian country he would punish them worse than breaking their kegs and handed me the axe and told me to go to work I took the axe and knocked in the seven heads of the kegs and made a stream half way down the hill towards the river by the fort the Indians looked very solemn they had come a long distance to get Whisky to trade for horses and had lost a considerable amount by the operation but they put a stop to the trade for the winter but in the Spring they commenced again in canoes I was sent with Lieut Hall & all and a party of soldiers to watch them and seize them if possible and if they would not stop to fire Ball close to them and say that would bring them too presently along on a canoe I should them in Indian but no reply & again I should no reply but they paddled off as fast as possible Lieut Hall took Musket and fired and the water splatted all on the Indians but no stop he fired again but no stop to the Indians and they got off Lieut Hall went and reported that he could not bring them too and two canoes had got passed him Captain ordered him to load with fire shot he did so and we went back again and we had not been there long before another canoe came along we hailed again but no stop Lieut Hall fired one Indian he never but the other paddled across to the shore and they ran off before they could load again

So we gave it up the canoes had passed and
 we did not catch one of them but one of the Indians
 got a charge of shot that laid him up for a while
 and the commanding officer told them if they did not
 stop running Whisky by then in the night he would
 put a boat there and a party of men with orders
 to fire on all that were passing after night this
 stopped the business for a while but the next morning they
 commenced again Captain Backus had been ordered
 away and Captain Eastman was in command
 Captain Eastman was all ways ready and when
 ever I would notify him of any Whisky having been
 smuggled passed he would always have a scout
 team and a party of men and an officer and we would
 go in pursuit but the Indians had got too smart
 for us and frequently when we would overtake them
 they would have it hid before we could get to them
 Last night, I have traveled nearly all night to ca-
 -ch an Indian with a keg of Whisk So determined
 we were to break up the traffick and I may say that
 Capt Backus and Major Eastman done more for
 the benefit of the Sioux so far as stopping liquor
 from going into the Indian Country than any other
 two officers that commanded Fort Snelling one
 Sunday morning some Indians were returning from
 the agency home going upon a gallop all at once
 a shot from behind them brought down down
 the rider and horse I achieved a Buck shot in
 the head the second shot Miss and the Indian and
 horse got clear the chippers ran up and took
 the scalp and ran off the Indian that escaped
 stood and looked on having no gun until the
 chippers was went off when he came back and reported

and in about an hour a hundred Indians had
assembled and some winter present returned
and said they could not find any thing for the
Chippewas had made tracks just with their scalp
they brought in the dead body and laid it down
at my door and here all the Indians and the
commanding officer and we had a long audience
council the Indians wanted to know if he was
a going to allow the Chippewas to come and kill
the Sioux in sight of his fort and spill their blood
and they could get no satisfaction the commanding
officer Capt Backus asked them if they had forgot
how many Women and Children they had murdered
a few Summers before and told them the Chippewas
could not forget such a butchery in a short time
and miss their and then getting a small part
of satisfaction the Sioux got mad and clamorous
for blood and said it was their own fault the
Chippewas would come down in large parties and
make peace with the Sioux and when they were un-
suspecting the Chippewas would run fire of them
leave the main body and way lay a Sioux and kill him
and run off as was the case when some of the Chippewas
were killed and if this could had the chance they would
have done the same thing they kill all they can and so do
we kill all we can as opportunity offers but this thing
of allowing them to come right under the guns of
your fort and spilling our blood you ought
to be ashamed of it Capt Backus told them they
had done the same thing reminding them of the
time they had fired upon a camp of Chippewas camped
on the flat below the fort Ups and said the Sioux
we paid pretty dearly for three of our young

When men taken up and shot by the Chippewas by order
 of Col Snelling and none of them did the Commanding
 officer said if none of them did you tried to kill
 all you could by going into the whole camp this
 made the Sioux made the Sioux made for they began
 to see that the Commanding Officer was not going
 to help them in the matter and the Relations were all
 around Belling and crying and making the ^{most} awful
 lamentations and cutting their sides at a terrible
 rate they hung on and told the Commanding
 Officer that a camp of Chippewas were encamped
 below the falls the same ones that had got
 three of their young men shot a few years before
 the Chief Kato in the day they said they would
 go and kill the whole of them if the Commanding
 officer did not do something about the affair, the
 Command told them if they went up there he would
 would take his cannon and go up to their village
 and batter everything down and kill every thing that
 came in his way this called them down a little
 and they began to talk a little more reasonable and
 the Commanding officer told them if they would
 take their dead man and go off home quiet and
 peaceable that he would send for him in the day
 and have them all to meet at the fort next morning
 and if there were any of his party that had been
 in the party that killed the Sioux that he would take
 them and keep them in prison and let them Great
 Father the President decide how the matter should
 be settled so they went off and the next morning they
 were all there but the Chippewas had come down
 the evening before and camped near the fort for fear of
 some treacherous move on the part of the Sioux

They were all paraded in front of the fort so
 as to be handy if the Sioux did pour on the chips
 - as was to give them a shot from the fort. The commanding
 officer asked the Chippewas if any of them had
 been with the party that killed the Sioux the day before.
 They replied that they knew nothing about it and
 that it must be some strange Indians from the up-
 country. The said they lied, and pointed out two
 or three that they suspected of the murder and told
 the Hakin the day that if he did not leave
 two hostages with the Captain until the
 real murderers could be found that they would
 make war upon him for they knew they said that he
 must have knowledge of what had taken place so
 the hole in the day told them to satisfy them that he
 had nothing to do with affair he would leave two
 young men and the commanding officer was glad
 to get rid of them and their trouble and it happened
 that the Hakin in the day in selecting the two young
 men to remain as hostages left one that was a re-
 -a line of the actual murderer but it was found
 out that it was two Pillagers from Leech Lake
 that had done the mischief unknown to any
 body and ran off safe a demand was made
 for them but they put off for the return of
 the north to the British to suspicions and then
 remained and the two hostages were kept in Fort
 Snelling about two years and a half and when
 they were let out they both had the consumption
 and died shortly after. So ended that murdering scrape
 but still the Sioux were not satisfied because
 they could not wash their own hands in their
 enemies blood and the first of them they got

killed some more Chippewas the comm-
 anding officer and the Indian Agent Col. A. J. Bruce
 call a grand Council of peace of both Sioux
 and Chippewas, they assembled at the appointed time
 and each party had loud and large complaints
 to make and both parties demand damages for
 murder and for breaking a peace that had been
 made some years before in which treaty it was
 stipulated there should be perpetual peace
 kept between the two tribes or Nations and in
 case of murder by either party the murder must be
 given up and be dealt with as the President
 of the United States should direct but in case
 the murderer should flee to some unknown
 country where could not be apprehended then the
 tribe or nation to which he belonged were to pay
 a sum in goods or money as the parties could
 agree upon and the agents to assist in the ar-
 rangement of their difficulties in this great
 Council the Indians could do nothing themselves
 and they each party chose some of their friends
 the whites to decide for them so there were three
 for the Sioux and three for the Chippewas
 whether they went off by themselves and came
 back and reported that they could not agree
 upon any thing that would be acceptable to
 either party and finally their troubles were partially
 settled by leaving it to the President to settle
 for them but the President took no notice of
 the affair for a long time and they got to killing
 on both sides again the Sioux commended the agent
 to tell them they must pay the Chippewas something
 to stop the Chippewas from coming to war and

probably lose a good many for one man
 after much talk and trusting about the same
 agreed to give one half of the runty goods
 of the band that committed the murder which
 about amounted to one thousand dollars from
 Little Sioux band. The parade and lead had
 arrived and that was turned over to the Cheppes
 but the goods were not all arrived and
 that was left and happened very well for the
 Cheppes came to war and killed one Sioux
 and ran off and this settled the matter as
 - and the goods were returned to the Sioux and
 this was the last of the treaty of peace they
 have from that time to this kept up killing when
 ever they could get a chance the country was now
 getting up very fast and all the good locations
 were taken up and the white men encroaching
 upon the Indian lands and marking and taking up
 claims which gave a great deal of trouble to
 the Government and the Indians killed some wh-
 - ites and frequently killed cattle and to get the
 difficulties settled the Govt thought best to
 make a treaty and purchase all the lands and
 put them upon a reservation would put an end
 to Indian hostilities amongst the Sioux and the
 treaty was made by Governor Ramsey and Mr
 Luke See com of Indian affairs commissioners to
 make the treaties and in the summer of 1867
 all things were got in readiness and the commissioners
 proceeded to Traverse des Sioux to make a treaty
 with the Sissetons first but the commissioners labored
 a month before they could get the Sioux to sign
 a treaty the Sioux stuck out for more money and more

Goods, the Commissioners had made two or three alterations in the treaty for them, and had come to a stand still point finally after much patience and waiting the Sisseton and Wahpaton Sioux signed the treaty at Chaourse decision. The Commissioners then proceeded to Minnesota to make a treaty with the Lower Sioux or Medewaknton and Wahpucote Sioux. The Commissioners labored here about a month and finally succeeded in making another treaty. The two treaties took from the Medewaknton, Wahpucote and Sisseton Sioux the last strip of land they felt except their reservation and all they had left to depend upon is their annuity for fifty years when their annuity ends except a perpetual annuity of \$5,000 per annum for life only annuities for the Lower Sioux in making this treaty there was a great deal of private interest brought to bear upon the Indians and Commissioners the Wahpucotas were brought in by the trade for a large share of the annuity, although they were ^{not} a large band. The other bands opposed this move and very justly too I think private interest worked its point and the Wahpucotas were let in about as the trade requested and the Wahpucotas were to pay the trade, one hundred thousand dollars, of which Mr. H. J. Lambart got fifty thousand if I recollect right and Mr. Libby about twenty five and the balance was divided in small sums to small demands, a large amount had been set apart for the removal of these Indians to their reservation, \$100,000.00 for the Medewaknton, \$20,000 for the Wahpucotas, and it was a long and tedious piece of work for the Commissioners.

to get all things to suit the traders and Indians and the Treaty was sent on to Washington to be ratified by the Senate This body thought it was best to make the Indians more obedient and dependant upon the Government Was to take all their lands from them and let them have the use of the reservation for a term of years and and sent the treaty back and stated that the Indians must relinquish their right to the reservations also and then the government would ratify their treaty provided they signed the amendment at their own expense and the same rates of the lands in the first treaty the Indians opposed this at the start and said at once are we not to have a place for the sole of a foot What can our great father mean that the President and Senate wanted actually to run them off out of the country and starve them to death and said right up and down they would not sign the treaty again the Governor called them together on a certain day and before that day a number of chiefs and braves came over to the Agency and talked with the Major the Indian Agent and asked his advice in the case the Agent told them he had nothing to say in the subject the Indians told him the traders and the Government wanted to run them and starve them to death the Agent told them to do as they pleased as the land was theirs they were the best judges how to act in the case they went away dissatisfied saying they had no friends in the Country some of them came back again and asked me privately what I thought of their case I told them I could say nothing

only what the agent told me to say or
 the Governor and the Indians and I was
 bound by oath to repeat what they said
 and the Govt. Officer, and nothing more they
 hung their heads and said half the time they
 could not get any person to repeat exactly
 what they said and advantages were taken of
 them in their councils. I had not interposed much
 at the councils for the treaty and the Indians
 thought that their claims had not been fairly
 stated or they would have been better dealt by
 by the Commissioners and asked me if I would
 interpose exactly what they wanted to say
 to the Governor in regards to signing the treaty
 around me to their treaty. I told them I was
 bound to tell the Governor all they said and all
 the Indians said. Now can we depend upon you
 they said yes I said well they said we will
 not sign the treaty and we want you to say so
 for us and went on with a long string of excuse
 for not signing. I told them there was no use of
 bringing in all those long stories but if they were
 determined not to sign just to say so and be
 done with it in as few words as possible for
 they had been quite silly about it and said
 it was some device to ruin them. I told them
 it would do no good but make the business
 look worse if they were turbulent and sa-
 -cer about it. They finally agreed to say no-
 -thing only to say that they had concluded to
 not sign the treaty and went off home so
 the next day was the time and quite a number
 of the Indians came in and some of the traders

for the traders (Micanipuns to see how the thing
 would turn as there were some four or five hun-
 -dred thousand dollars to be paid out to traders
 and half breeds and so on. The Governor told
 them that their Great father and Council had
 Sanjit to alter their treaty a little and wanted
 the Sams his red children to let him the President
 and Council have all their lands without any re-
 serve only that the President would permit
 them to cultivate the lands within the bounda-
 -ries of the reserve for a term of years the Indians
 asked how long they could use the land, the Gov-
 -ernor told them the President had not determined how
 long they should occupy the land but thought
 as long as they wanted to use it but was certain
 on that point. Old had hail their orator got
 up and said father we fear that our Great father
 at Washington wishes to drive us to some country
 to starve us to death and we cannot sign the
 treaty as our Great father wishes, another got
 up and said the same and so it went round
 and all the chiefs said the same thing and sat
 down the Governor said he was sorry that what
 could not agree to do as their great father
 wished them and said he thought their great father
 wanted to do for the best for his red children
 and knew that their great father did not wish
 to take advantage of them the Indians said
 but little and got up and walked off here
 was now a great hubbub the treaty broken
 up. No room for Emigration (No money for the
 traders the most part of the business) and none
 for the half breeds a large sum was to be

said according to these treaties the traders all
 got together and had a council to see what
 was to be done. We are all ruined they said if these
 treaties are not signed. after they had refused to
 sign for Governor Ramsey. Good road an old
 treacherous lying fellow went over to Mr. Sibley
 one day and told him that I was leagued with
 the Indians to defeat the treaty and that the
 Indians were generally displeased with the
 traders for charging them so much on their old
 accounts in the two treaties about three hun-
 dred and seventy five thousand dollars, was to
 go to the traders alone the Indians told me the
 Governor was very much displeased because he
 did not succeed in getting the treaty redesignated and
 said if he knew for certain that I had advised the
 Indians to not sign the treaty he would remove me
 from office but I never heard any thing more about
 the matter until Mr. H. M. Rice sent for me one
 day. I went to St. Paul and saw Mr. Rice he
 informed ^{me} that he was employed to try and get
 the Sioux to sign the treaty, and wanted me for an
 interpreter and said he had got the agents consent
 to my being absent from the agency during the time
 required to get the Indians together and council &c
 so I agreed to undertake the task although a very
 tedious and unpleasant one. Mr. Rice told me there
 would not a trader come near Nor interfare in
 the business at all for they found that the Indians
 were out with the traders and they could do
 nothing with them therefore they had to get disin-
 trusted person to work for them so the Indians wo-
 uld not see through the operations.

and now how was this great work to be performed the Government were not to pay any part of the expense so the following plan was adopted to pay the expense of assembling the Indians, and presents and rations, Physicians, &c &c to be taken out of the removal fund an appropriation of something over two hundred thousand dollars had been reserved for the removal of the Indians out of their own monies and Mr Rice and myself went to work Sunday for the Indians all over the Country a few of the principal Men and a chief or head man of the different bands in five or six days they began to come in and we commenced feeding them and fed them like gluttons and I assure you the way they used up the Beef and Mutton was wonderful but some had moved to their fall hunts and it was a long time before we got them all together Mr Rice commenced giving them presents some he gave horses some Saddle, Barning Carth got a Silver mounted Spanish Saddle worth 30 or 40 dollars some got fine coats after feeding and waiting upon them for 15 days we got them all together and the great question was put them about signing the amendment to the treaty by Mr Rice with all the explanation as to the results and the cause of the States wishing to claim the whole country the Indians went off by themselves and they talked the matter over for three days and had not come to any thing definite and one chief was wanting Wabashaw had not arrived he arrived at the last hour and he had to hear all over again which kept us another day and a night finally I went to Wabashaw alone by himself he told me he went to sign the treaty but that did not care about harrying the matter as he

he wanted to understand all about the Result by
so doing he kept us to the last Moment and Even when
they went out to have their last council Wabashaw
would not give his views to the Indians in general
until I went out where they were and told them what
had been some twenty days and we went tired of dragging along
when they could make up their minds in a few minutes if they
chose the Indians all said that they had made up
their minds to follow Wabashaw and when they
he gave me leave finally Wabashaw came out
and said that the Indians had accused him of doing
every thing by himself but now he had their consent to
do as he pleased he should sign the treaty that was all
that was that was that was wanted and off we all
started for Governor Carns's office to sign the treaty
when we got up there we had another long party the
Governor said demanded that they should have a new
a change of Blacksmiths this was agreed too then
they asked for their reservation to be made on Lake
Kokoshump the head of one of the tributaries of the
Blue Earth river the Governor added sometime to get an
answer to this request finally said he would write to
their Great father at Washington and tell him their request
and in the meantime he wanted them to sign his paper as he
had some medals to distribute well then the Upper camp
demanded five thousand dollars in money to sign the
Governor told them their great father had given a great
deal of money and he thought that if he asked for more they
would not get it and they better not ask for any so af-
ter putting back and forth until late in the afternoon
the council signing Wabashaw first. Then after
all was done then came the medals this made quite
a competition and a good many went away dissatisfied

and I think we were all truly happy to bring the
 business to a close for we had labored night and day for
 about 20 days I never worked more assiduously than in
 this case I was determined that if there was any possibility
 of getting them to sign I would do it for this reason they
 had circulated a lie about me in relation to my being
 a party to breaking up the first Council or their not signing
 the treaty when the Governor first proposed it to them and when
 the Sioux found out how the thing had been managed they
 were terrible wroth at me and Mr Rice and the whole
 Expense had been paid out of their funds made them
 feel still more hostile than ever the whole Expense being
 about 25 to 30 thousand Dollars out of their removal
 fund I got for my services a kind of a suit of clothes
 from Mr Rice Mr Rice was to have ten thousand dollars
 but from whom I do not know but think Mr Dausman
 had a hand in the matter and I think Mr Rice got
 no money but a turn on some old account that Mr
 Rice thought he ought not to pay and I think probably
 Mr Dausman made Mr Rice pay for some of the horses
 so that Mr Rice had all our work for nothing in
 a manner and the traders reaped all the benefits for they
 got all the money except what Mr Taylor got for
 operating the business along in Washington 15 per cent was
 his demand and he got it which amounted to some fifty
 thousand dollars for him and his party after the treaty
 business was all over Mr Rice and myself were both taken
 sick Mr R. was a pulmonary complaint and came near
 dying I had typhoid fever and I was very low for a time the
 Indians said it was a judgment upon us and some of
 them wished we would die Goodroad in particular
 said he wished I would die he was taken sick a
 short time after and died himself in a few days the
 news came one day that Mr Rice was dead an Indian
 who a few days went up from the mouth and hearts of

of some people that lived not far from me but the alarm
 hapely was a false one. We both hard and are still work-
 -ing for the good of Mankind and the Emigrants for-
 -ward a place to settle down on the finest country in
 -the West. Whereas with one word the treaty could
 have all been blowed to the wind, and the traders
 would have got no money nor the people any lands
 on the West Side of the Mississippi to settle upon
 in the fall in September. I had been down with
 Major McLan to Wabashaw at the lower end of the
 Lake to pay off Wabashaw's band it rained and thundered
 the most of the time we were there and the lightning one
 night struck an Indian lodge and killed a man
 and wife a child was at the breast but was not hurt the
 fluid had apparently went into their mouths. The Elec-
 -tricity went along on the ground to another lodge and
 wounded Cory more and then run along to another
 lodge and wounded some more so in all there were
 thirteen wounded and killed by one flash of electricity.
 Wabashaw would hardly speak to me he was
 still displeased about the signing the treaty the fall be-
 -fore as I have not much to add to my narrative until
 the Indians commenced to move to their new homes I shall
 write something about the history and customs and then
 probable destiny so far as forty years of experience
 amongst them will permit only having their tradition
 for proof which does not extend far back as the first
 traders in the country could not speak the language
 of course they could get no history from the oldest Indians
 that probably have given some insight into their native
 country from whence they came &c but so far as I have
 been able to understand them they seem to think they
 have lived here near about the center of the earth from
 time immemorial but by what power or authority
 they do not know or understand they claim to have

occupied the country far north and west of the
 now Sioux Country and that they have not relinquished
 or given up any territory only as it became destitute of game
 and was not worth spending their blood for as they
 have been at war with most all the surrounding
 Nations it is a wonder they have not become extinct
 or been swallowed up by some other nation and lost
 their nationality the Assinaboins and Omahas are
 supposed to have been tribes of the Sioux but by ge-
 =nerals and family traits they separated and have been
 so long apart that their language has become so changed
 that they have to have interpreters now to understand
 each other and frequently make war upon each other
 in the Missouri Country and now the Sioux Nation
 extend to the Rocky Mountains and other Nations are
 making way for them constantly and receding farther
 west and west not for the Whites and treaties that
 secure to other Nations from invasions upon their
 rights the Sioux in a few years would have reached
 the Pacific in another century and the general
 supposition is that they crossed the Straits from the
 northern part of Russia where the Eskimoes are now
 found and live apparently contented as they can
 roam all over those polar regions why could the
 Sioux not do the same and continue their march by
 degrees until they found game enough to subsist upon
 where they made a stand and have fought many bloody
 = battles and their marks and trace of their war parties
 were visible at the Lake of the Woods and Rainy
 Lake when the British trade first went to that Country
 and I recollect of a scene that took place some where
 not far from the Lake of the Woods at a place called
 the warpath or chemin de guerre) where a party of Sioux
 had been to war they had attacked and killed a whole fam-
 =ily of Chippewas except one young woman that had

by her dexterity got away from them. The young woman
 had the name of being a great runner and at the ball
 plays always would win for the Side she was
 chosen on the Sioux Side her. Making off and
 some of the swiftest men started in pursuit she
 saw them coming but paid no attention to them they
 thought they were going to have an easy prize she let
 them come until they were within arrow shot when
 she started off, becoming to the Sioux to come on they
 however turn put down as hard as they could the
 Chippewa girl all the time becoming to them to
 come on at last the Sioux burst out all a lau-
 -ghing and stopped and gave the Whoop. Joy and made
 signs to her to go and probably would not of touched
 her if she had of come to them. as they are generous in
 such cases she speaks of many bloody battles, off about
 Devils Lake or Minnetonka, Spirit Lake, and speaks of
 whole parties having been cut off except a man or two to
 escape although they are cruel and sanguine men
 still there are instances where they have been merciful
 and spared the life of a part or a few of their prisoners,
 there are now some Chippewas amongst the Sioux that
 were taken prisoners when they were children also some
 from the Missouri I found that had been taken pris-
 -oners and had families, and were as much Sioux at heart
 as the war people on the plains the Sioux have been
 so much misery by starvation and snow storms
 that they have done some terrible deeds that have
 been handed down to posterity that are of the brute
 nature more than human one I have heard related fre-
 -quently by old Indians about a camp of Yanktons
 traveling in pursuit of Buffalo and necessity com-
 -pelled them to travel faster than they had been tra-
 -veling but they had a number of old people with
 them that clogged their march and they could not

overtake the Buffalo and one family that had no
 horses said they could not pack an old man they
 had any longer and were going to leave him on the
 prairie to perish the Indians disapproved of this
 way of getting rid of the old man and held a co-
 -uncil what to do with the old man so they agreed
 that the old man should be set up as a mark to be
 shot at or other wise called him a chippew and
 he was to have a gun given him and to be placed be-
 -hind a little mound and was to defend himself
 the best he could and there was a haughty young
 -ster picked out with Barbs & arrows and some guns
 and they went to attack the old man the same as
 an enemy this pleased the old man for he said
 it was an awful thing to sit down in a large open
 prairie and linger along for a number of days and
 die a most miserable death of starvation or be torn
 to pieces alive by the wolves yes said the old man
 I had much rather die in the way you have
 appointed so accordingly the old man was fixed
 up in the best position by his relatives for defence that
 they could place him and the youngsters received the
 signal for attack they commenced their war whoops and
 so did the old man the youngsters every now and
 then would let go a volley of arrows but run
 to far off to do much and kept advancing and on
 the old man the old man urged them on too to
 combat shouting all the time whilst the young-
 -sters some would run almost up to the old man
 and aim then their hearts would fail them &
 the old man would bring his gun down to fire
 and the boys would jump away and run off
 and come back to the charge again at last an
 accidental shot brought the old man down who
 could not swim the boys had all the advantage

The old Man was taken and buried according to the Indian custom and the party proceeded on their hunt. Suicides is not of frequent occurrence and what does take place is more frequent amongst the women than with the men in 40 years I have heard of only two or three cases amongst the men and about a dozen amongst the women the women have much more cause for such acts than the men and those that take place amongst the women are caused by forced marriages or abuse of their husbands I know of two cases where two young women hung them selves within a few days of each other. one Indian had applied to the father for one of them and the father gave his consent but when it came to the girls ears she ran off she was sent for and brought back and asked her reasons for disobeying the wish of her father who was a chief and a great man and would be made ashamed the girl said he was an inferior person that he could not talk he stuttered so much and had had two or three wives already and she had no love for him but the old chief said his words must be law and told his daughter that she must go and live with the man of his choice she rose up silently and went out after a while some enquiry was made about the girl but no person had seen her and some search was made and she was found hanging to a tree that was leaning over the river only a few rods from the house or lodge a great lamentation was made and the old chief got a great reprimand from the mother for his interference in the marriage of her daughter. and a few days after a cousin of the same girl hung herself for the same kind of offence the Maiden Rock on the East bank of Lake Pepine was a tragedy of the same cause and polygamy this kind of life would suit the Mormons many people think the Indians live a happy life the men

do in comparison to that of the women I have known instances where 2 or 3 sisters or as many as 4 have lived something like a peaceable life but even if they were sisters I have known them to have their jars on account of jealousies but there are laws amongst themselves as for their having any thing like laws of force or officers to enforce any of their old customs they have nothing regular and any quarrel or dispute arising in a family where a man has 3 or 4 wives no one interferes unless some one of the relative females will volunteer to help or keep the parties separate so they cannot injure each other severely a man having three wives the one that has the first son is looked upon as the legal wife as for the girls they are all respected alike & for in the family the Mandans are supposed to be a branch of the Sioux and the way they got separated was a quarrel about Jaggonay I have known the women to quarrel until they would drive the husband to desperation and he would turn in and thrash them all if he did not get worsted and get a flogging himself I have known that to take place where the women would all turn in and whip the man for many of them are very strong owing to their constant labour chopping carrying loads and heavy burthens the Boreal is looked upon as a sign of war in some country and the Indians say that when one appears when they are returning with scalps is a sign of the old woman being pleased with them and the shooting up of the Boreal is a sign for them to dance the Boreal is here called an old woman the goddess of war and when it appears the old people urge the young on to dance and play they say the old woman is looking down to see them dance then they turn in and dance round the scalp with renewed energy and songs of

the Victorians burst forth and the woods
 and wildness Echoe to a distance of four or
 five miles I have heard them in a calm
 Evening the Woods are full in their songs but the
 chorus is never ending The words they use are
 something similar to the following The spirits
 have given us a large fat scalp the spirits took
 justly on our destiny We found them in a fine
 bark canoe We found them in the midst of a se-
 -alp dance My father's spirit has come back again
 Such are about the sentences, that are used in the
 Scalp dance the men sing the words first then the
 women repeat the same words and then whole
 assemblage both men and women join in a
 chorus to the words, fir in stance My father's spirit
 has come back again sh.ta. waq.hree. tah. wa. hen. dee.
he. ya. ha. yah ha he ya ha ha ha he ya ha ya ha.
 and a long string of nothing but a chorus something
 similar Still they appear to have a tune to every
 set of words, and the words are seldom longer
 than the specimens ^{as} above, and some not so
 long even their games at Chum are singu-
 -lar What few they have and it would be better
 if they had none at all for like the white man in
 expectation to win more loses all I have known
 Indians to sit down and play away everything
 he possessed of any value even to his wife which
 this case was no harm only the character of immoral
 for the Indian had two or three wives and probably
 the woman was better provided for by getting a single
 man than to live with two or three in the same co-
 age in want and misery half the lifetime, and play
 was but little known when I first came amongst
 the Dakotas their games were games of their own
 adoption the Plum Stone or 7 Plum Stone are

are Scraped Clean and several devices burnt
on them Some represent Buffalo Some Turkeys
Some Deer and so on the Characters represent so
much and they are put into a wooden Bowl
and the gamblers all gather round and sit down
in a ring and commenced by taking the Bowl and
hoisting it about 4 or 6 inches from the ground and
let it down suddenly and pretty hard so that the
Plum Stones turn over Some times half a do-
zen times and some times jump over the dish and
counts on the outside of the dish as well as
the in side from 1 to 21 as the parties agree
before commencing. Make a game Some times they
make a game in one throw Some times in three
and quite a number of blanks I have known
horses Cars Large Kettles and traps bet by
the Men who play by themselves, Most always
and the Women by themselves the Women bet
their Earbobs finger rings and such like trinkets
another game called the Mockasin game is they
have three Mockasins they all assemble in a co-
ldge in the Evening from 5 to 20 of them all Men
and three Mockasins are placed in the center and
they choose sides Equal numbers and they have
a little ball that they hide in one of the Mock-
asins and one Man is to find the ball and if he
points to the ball the first time he loses but if points
to it or finds it in the second time he wins and is
attached to keep his place until he loses When they
change sides it is something similar to Thumble play-
ing only they are in parties and quite a number on
a side and such a noise as they keep up all the time
the Man is hiding the ball by singing and rattling
sticks together that it is almost deafening to be in the
Cage when they are when on wins what a shout

but if the opposite party wins by the other loosing
 by guessing where the Ball is the first time then
 there comes a shout from the winning party and as long
 as one party guesses where the ball is after it is shot
 so long they can hold the time of guessing and
 they bet very high on this game for Indians for
 they bet their all sometimes horses guns traps & all
 their means of living. and they play all night and
 I have known the to keep it up for three days &
 their women were suffering for food. also Ball
 play in the far part of summer is another game
 that is played by large parties from fifty to one
 hundred on a side this is a hard work game for
 there is a great deal of hard running to be done in
 order to win and some Medicine Man is employed
 to make the Ball as it is supposed that the Medicine
 Man can do something by his Witchcraft to make the
 ball win it about as large as a large hen Egg
 perfectly round and stuffed with Earth it is quite
 heavy and when they throw it it goes along distance &
 I have seen it strike a man that stood about ten yards
 off and the blow from the force of the ball almost
 killed him the Indian was picked up for dead but
 came too in a little while but did not get over
 it for some this ball play is a hard game they use
 all sorts of harsh means to get the ball from each
 other I have seen them catch an Indian running
 with the ball by the hair and throw him two
 rods and probably half a dozen others would
 fall over him whilst they would be pulling and
 hauling for the ball I have seen take their ball
 ball sticks and slip it between their legs when
 they were going like horses and pitch them head
 long and then crawl on top of them and hurt each other
 very badly sometimes and is upon the whole a game of

of hard work and subject them to Injury for they
 get so excited when there is large bets that they
 do not look to see what they do but rush ahead at
 the risk of life and limb but to get the ball and
 throw it as far as they can its amazing to see how
 far they can throw the ball by the little stick
 made of Hickory about two feet and a half long
 with a sand bar at one end and a small lea-
 ther string passed three times across the bar by
 the being as many holes burnt through the bar and
 is something in the shape of a bird, with they pick
 the ball up with the and throw it or run with
 it as long as they can until some one takes three or
 runs before them and must then then they throw and
 then another takes it and runs it throws the ball and
 keeps it going until they get it over the line which
 is about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile each way When one party gets
 the ball over the line one way they turn and go
 the other way next time and if they or the party that
 gets it over two in three times they win or the best in
 three wins Indians are accused of cannibalism
 but the Sioux have no such inclination but they
 have eat human flesh, many of them they say to make
 them brave therefore when they kill an enemy they
 some times take out the heart, and cut it into small
 pieces about as large as they can easily swallow and
 the young warriors are compelled to swallow a por-
 -tion of his enemy, heard this they say makes them brave
 and if they refuse to swallow the piece he is
 called a coward and I heard them say it must be swallowed
 against the will to get a piece down Their amusements
 are common and some of them are rather of a vulgar
 order The fish dance or feast is a dirty practice
 therefore is not often got up if a man dreams about
 seeing fish in the night and has much other trouble in

dream The dreamer must give a feast to the
 fish gods or he must give a fish dance to app-
 ease the Spirits of the fish to keep them from
 getting angry for his dream the night before
 Salakus of some displeasure toward the dream
 and if the Man has nothing to make a good feast of he
 makes a dance in the gallows order he goes
 out in the morning looking for fish and the first that
 he gets he brings it in a lodge is pitched and a Bu-
 -the fence on two sides, having a lane about ten feet
 wide and closed at the end by brush also Except a small
 door way for the dancers to enter The fish that they
 have killed in morning, is painted inuntressed
 some time, blue and not cleared at all scales
 guts head and tail is staked down to the ground
 and some painted down from the spruce
 is placed in little bunches all round the fish a
 piece of spray also and in the brush fence all
 round the place where the party is to dance the
 dancers are represented as some kind of bird or animal
 as one Man will represent himself as an Owl
 another a. Crow, another a. Crow, another a
 Fish Hawk, and so on, Every Man that dances must
 adopt some kind of. fowl or beast of prey
 a Bear, Wolf, Fox, Panther, Wild cat, and so on
 and Each one has a little nest in the brush fence
 and the Bear & Wolf and so on have little holes
 in the ground under the brush fence When all things
 are ready The old Man appointed to sing will
 commence his song after a while you will see the
 the fowls and animals approaching from some
 place where they have been hid. Some trying rep-
 resent the animal he represents, and apparently shy
 of each other The old Man keeps rattling the ground
 shell and Drum and making all kinds of noise

until he gets all his band of Birds and animals
 and gets them Seated Each one opposite to
 his Nest The old man commences Singing for
 them to dance and up they jump Making all kinds
 of Noises in fact Every one has to Make a Noise like
 the fowl or animal. Then presents and the dance
 he tries to represent his Character and it Makes much
 amusement for the bystanders of which there are
 many to witness their comical operations after they have
 danced a while The given Signal is Made for them
 to commence Eating their feast of Raw fish first
 one will approach and turn off and leave it with
 Squall or Screech and Move on round and another
 will come up and do the same and hobble off round
 to the tune of the old Mans Music by and one will
 Make a grab with his Mouth and he may Succeed
 in getting a piece if not he will Move on round
 and another will try to bite off a piece and so they
 keep going until they all get a piece off and stand
 away in their Nest, if they possibly can but some
 times they do not Succeed the first time and a hull
 is Mad by the old drum and they set down and
 take a smoke and while they are Smoking some one
 will try to steal the others piece of fish and the
 owner discovers him and here a great fuss is raised
 by the owner Making a hideous noise to try and fr-
 ighten the thief off and the other the same and
 probably will be a wolf and the other a crow
 so the crow will Squawk & the wolf howl and
 Snap and Snaarl and Cat up wonderfully and when
 the other on the opposite side are looking on some
 one are stealing on the other side here another gun
 and commences and so on until nearly all get
 to gunnelling about their bits fish they have had
 away to the great amusement of the bystanders

Sam acting the wolf some a hawk and so on all
 at once The old Man starts his drum again
 and they all start for a dance some trying to fly
 some crawling Sam barking like a wolf and Sam beat
 all the lines watching their nests for fear of
 being Robbed by and by a signal is given for them to
 pitch into the fish again and regular dog
 fight and hauling takes place as they are not allo-
 -wed to touch the fish with their hands only they
 can hold a little stick in their hands to keep the
 fish down with whilst they bite a piece off
 The fish has to be completely used up in this way
 head guts skin and in fact every thing has to be eaten
 up, raw, and the struggle for a piece by the di-
 -fferent kinds of animals and fowls represented
 is great for the last piece finally one gets it and
 goes round the ring with it in his mouth and then
 a thug after him making noises fully and heavily this way
 and has until finally he swallows it raw like
 all the rest have done and the old drummer makes
 a little speech of praise for braving in eating the
 fish up clean in its raw state and he thinks the
 Spirits are satisfied and that the family will be
 able to sleep in peace here after and the dance is
 Ended In their wars there is a considerable com-
 -money used by the war chief and he is quite an arbitr-
 -ary officer at times he lays all the plans of attack and
 makes all laws regulating all the transactions of the trip
 but there is no regular war chief any person that loses
 a relation by death either sickness or in battle they can
 get up a war party if they have influence enough to raise
 a party some try get up war parties but the Indians don't
 put any confidence in their powers of spiritual discerning
 and will not go with them and sometimes break up the party
 and all these war parties the Man that makes up the party

Never asked or invites a single person to go with him it
 is all done on a voluntary sense the Man that makes
 the party commences his Songs to the gods of power
 and war which is the rocks first and the Earth & the war
 chief keeps up his war for about six nights sometimes
 very secret for sometimes the Band in general do not wish
 to go to war at that time for various reasons however the
 Man is obstinate and is determined to go and keeps up his
 night songs and and prayer and all that wish to go come in
 and join in the ceremonies and when the warrior or war
 chief thinks he has force enough and has found out by
 his dreams and magical works about the point where he
 will find the Enemy and tells them that on such a day or in so
 many nights he will start and at the appointed time off
 he goes and after getting about 2 or 3 miles from the camp
 he sits down and lights his pipe and smokes to himself
 these large boulders of rocks and asks the Spirit of the
 Rocks to give him success in killing some of his enemies and
 not get any of the party killed I recollect of an instance
 when the Sioux went to war and one of the party got killed
 it was at Otter tail lake the Sioux came upon a man and wo-
 man in a canoe hunting the Sioux fired upon them and killed
 the woman dead but the man was only slightly wounded
 there was some ball holes through the canoe that it sunk
 in a few moments the Chippewa managed to keep his gun dry
 and the Sioux all plunged into the water to kill the
 Chippewa as soon as the Sioux got close enough the Chip-
 pewa fired and killed one dead the Sioux in the noise &
 confusion did not miss their man until they had killed
 the Chippewa and got to shore and got the scalps of the
 man and woman and were about to start for home when
 one of the party looked round and says where is my bro-
 ther they all spoke up and said they saw him in the
 water when they made the charge on the Enemy the brother
 went back and looked in the water and found his brother

the Chippewa had taken good aim and would be
 he would have a scalp to offer his the Swamp was
 shot through the head and was lying in the water abo
 ut three feet deep the brother dragged him to shore and
 they set him up nearly the Chippewa man and woman
 and a quantity of trinkets hanging to his neck but this
 did not satisfy the hungry brother he made an assault
 upon the marcher and would have killed him only that
 the party interposed and prevented any further bloodshed
 and told the Enraged brother he was a fool and told him
 he had not here invited to come they all had all voluntar
 -ily came upon the excursion and if his brother was killed
 it was his own look out because for war and got the re
 -sults of war and he must put up with what had taken
 place the brother finally cooled down and went home
 with the party with out any more trouble amongst themselves
 this time I was lying at Leaf Lake a few miles from
 Otter tail Lake and learnt the circumstances a few hours
 after it took place after a while the party begin to ap
 -pear and signs are made if all are there that they know
 of coming when they all start off every night the marcher
 invokes his spirits of war and asks for direction in the
 right path to pursue to find the enemy off their guards
 and most accessible and so they go on for two or three
 days hunting along until they get within the enemy's coun
 -try when spies are arranged and one man has to take
 the war pipe and go some distance ahead of the party
 and orders are given that hunting and firing must be
 stopped and if any of the party breaks the order by firing
 a gun the party take him and break his gun and cut his
 blanket for him to all which he never says a word in
 opposition to the fulfilling their customs of law The man
 that goes ahead with the pipe if he sees any signs of the
 enemy returns to the party and makes known what he
 has seen or heard which is uttered and an other is sent

ahead and probably by this time they are in the enemy's
 country and the war chief makes his last prophecy
 at night he enters his little lodge that has been made
 by the party of brush and a few blankets thrown over
 to make a sort of a little hole is dug in the center
 since Red Earth and water put in and the war lance
 taken out and set point up. Sentinels in two rows
 hunters in a circle round the Medicine lodge the war chief
 enters the lodge and commences his harangue and calls upon
 the Rocks & Earth and many of the departed Spirits that
 have fallen in battle to guide him to where the Enemy is
 the Pursuit taken and to keep the Enemy from being alarmed
 and keep them a sleep until they can approach in the
 first fire and by the signs that the war chief draws
 with his gourd shell with beads in it that makes
 a rattle by which rattling and his invoking the spirits
 he draws as many of the Enemy's Spirits to his lodge
 as he is going to kill of the Enemy with his ineffectual
 harangue and saying casts the Enemy's Spirit into the little puddle of
 water where the war chief gives them a blow with
 his rattle and pretends that he has killed them all and the
 party are all out here anxious to hear the result of the
 chase after a little the war chief gives a blow in the
 side of his water hole then another and so on a blow for
 every scalp they are to take. Some times a blow with a gourd
 shell in side the lodge this strikes the party with awe and
 they put great faith in the war chief and they go out
 about as the war chief tells them as I have
 many of their war parties relate they sit out in the dark
 of the night after the war chief has got through his harangue
 go in hunt of the Enemy if they find the numbers they
 with draw and go and lay in ambush until they
 and shoot one or two when they go out to hunt again
 but if they find only a few they will attack about
 light and kill all they can and put off for home
 they lose a man sometimes none

Doctoring the Sick is performed by all those that be-
 long to the great Medicine Dance both men and women
 are considered capable of doctoring if they have been in-
 initiated into that great dance but there are a great many
 of the Medicine party that never practice the art of
 healing the Sick and there are others fearless graced
 creatures that do nothing else but doctor and they
 keep the Sound Shell a going all the time their mode
 of doctoring is by Charming by song without words
 they a chorus of hi, li, li, la, continually for 8 or 10 minutes
 at a time then they stop and rest a moment and the men of
 the lodge will fill a pipe and give the Doctor to smoke
 after smoking the Doctor will commence a game with the
 Sound Words and tune again and after he has sang
 awhile he will commence Sucking the parts most affected
 he will draw with his Mouth as long as he can hold
 his breath when he will let go with a stamp on the
 ground gazing and making all sorts of noises hutens
 sounds and takes a little dish with water that has
 some red Earth in it in which he quays, and Whistles,
 washes out his Mouth and turns and goes at it again and
 keeps on for half an hour sometimes, before he stops for a time
 when he looks at the dish of Water to see what he has
 drawn out by Suction and at the same time he
 knows what the disease is sometimes he thinks he has drawn
 out a quantity of bile other times he thinks it is some
 animal that has been sent by some other Indian
 brings for some alleged offered to make them sick and they
 believe all the Medicine have the power of sending the
 worst kinds of things by some supernatural power to doctor
 the power of another and the Doctor has to divine
 it is and has to try and drive the animal out
 sick person. Sometimes the Doctor will say it is
 a Fisher a Loase or something of this kind
 in the body of the sick person. and he orders

of a turtle out of Birch bark
 of the same material and
 and across two or three guns
 and was only to stand on
 the sick is being doctored

The Doctor commences his song as usual and gets
 up and walks about and then the lodge now and
 then and makes all kinds of hideous noises and some-
 times calls upon the Schun, Schunah, the rays or
 reflections of the Sun, is considered a powerful spirit
 of the air which they frequently invoke in their doctor-
 ing and after calling for some time he starts out
 and those outside waiting discharge their guns in-
 to the bowl of water and the little bark image and
 blow them to pieces and the Doctor pitches in and goes
 to Lucky and singing over the fragments of what is
 left and woman gets upon his back and stands then
 mummut when she gets down and leads the doctor
 by the hair of head back into the lodge where commences
 his suction again sometimes they stop and will not
 doctor any more after the shooting is over a woman
 in her courses must not approach any where near
 about this time for it would spoil all the witch craft
 and probably make her sick a woman during men-
 -suration cannot approach any lodge where
 there are any war implements or doctors and her lodge
 must be made separate from the family and is not
 permitted to go into her lodge until she is well and
 goes into a pool and washes herself with all her
 clothes on and the fire in the family lodge is all
 removed and new one built by the striking of
 a new fire with flint and steel