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Folder: Reminiscences, typescript, pages 1-60,
1861?

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Philander Prescott reminiscences and related
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THE REMINISCENCES OF PHILANDER PRESCOTT

Copied by Mrs. Amy Handschuh and collated with
Helen McCann, October, 1939-March, 1940.

Notes re copying:

1. Capital letters. Because Prescott used capital letters indiscriminately in his manuscript, and in many cases, it was difficult to decide whether he meant a letter to be capitalized or not, the copyist adopted the general rule of capitalizing only proper nouns, or words at the beginning of sentences -- and these only when it was reasonably clear that Prescott meant them to be capitalized. (In most of the manuscript he capitalizes the word Sioux, but does not capitalize the word Chippewa, for example).

2. Paragraphs. Prescott seldom makes paragraphs. The typist has made them to facilitate reading, but only where she thought there was a definite change in the subject matter of the narrative.

3. Prescott attached several supplementary pages to the original manuscript in several places. The copyist has indicated by footnotes, where these supplementary pages were attached and how they were copied into the narrative.

To His Excellency Gove[r]nor Alexander Ramsey Gove[r]nor of
Minnesota

The object of this work is to give a short history or reminiscences of the authors first travels from the state of Newyork to the Minnesota countery [sic]in the year 1829 [1820] April 19th I left my native place Phelps town Ontario countey at this time my brother Z. W. Prescott was living at Detroit Michigan territory clerking in the settlers store for the troops My brother wrote me to come to Detroit and assist him in the store and accordingly I left home on the above date My sisters prepared a large bundle of provisions and the hour for starting came and many tears fell from the eyes of my beloved sisters they said that they never expected to see me again and one of them never did have the pleasur[e] of seeing me again as she died a few years after I left home I was young beeing in my 18th year and the project pleased me much of getting to see the great west but my relatives did not approve of my leaving them particularly my sisters as they were alone almost one brother onley with whom they lived our parents were both dead and we were compelled to seperate and work for a livelihood I finally mustered up courage and extended my hand for a final and affectionate farewell It was a trying time but I shouldered my pack and started on foot and the first day I came to Canondagua and put up for the night Wearied and my feet badly blistered from wearing a pair of new tight boots in the morning I rose much disheartened and more than once^I thought of turning back but the thought of seeing the great west and the Indians and great lakes inspired me with

new courage and I set out again on foot and the 4th day I arrived at Buf[f]alow but found ^{the} ice stil in the lake and had to rema[i]n or wait on the steam boat until the first of May I had but little mon[e]y so I went down to black rock and went to work for my board until the steamer should leave for Detroit the little sum of mony that I had to spend would only feed me throug[h] the voyage therefore I was compelled to live poor and work whenever I could find aney thing to do.

here I will relate a little circumstance about a relative of mine Mr Nathan Reed. the Bible tells us that when we are in want not to go to a brother for help for more likeley than not you will be refused but a friend is far better than a relative in this case MrReed who was my unckle on my mothers side refused to loan me a few dollars in mony too [sic] take me through the journ[e]y all though he was well off and had a plentey and to spare and in this case I found the lesson in scripture had fallen upon me but I bore it all pat[i]entley and persevered and on the first day of May 1819 I embarked on board the steam boat Walk in the Water the first steamer that was built on lake Erie in 1818 the steamer did not start until after noon there [were] a large number of passengers on board 4 yoke of oxen were hitched to a long hauser and they with the engine took us over the rapids at the foot of the lake Erie there was ^a cons[i]derable ice stil fl[o]at- ing in the lake the weather was fine and calm and we had a ple[a]sant voyage except the first night the ice was stil thick and in large pieces and when the boat would strike one of them it would startle all the passengers with the crashingnoise.

the 2^d night we were all sudently [sic] called to witness a sad incident that was a man fill over and was drowned a piece

of the railing on the starbo[a]rd side of the boat and in front of the wheel was left unfastened and the man leaned against and the peace slip[p]ed out and the man went with it and it [was] supposed the wheel struck him and very likely killed him. the steamer was stop[p]ed and a boat was lowered in search of the man but nothing was found but his hat. the rem[a]inder of the trip nothing of note transpired. but I will assure you we had some sober looking faces for a day or two after the accident and no doubt made many fill [sic] how uncertain is life and that every day we should prepare for the morrow for we know not what a day may bring forth as soon as the steamer Walk in the Water landed I went to the clerk and told him my situation and had not mony enough to pay my passage he said I ought[to have] told him before leaving port I told him my brother was living in town and had means to pay my passage and that I would go and get the amount he the clerk said my passage was seven dollars for a steerage passage so I started and found my brother and got mony enough to settle my bill and all were sat[i]sfied although I had ship[p]ed without notefying the clerk or captainth I had forgot one little circumstance that took place on ship board it was a love scrape a young girl in the steerage passage had been courted by a man passenger in the same cabin but it appeared that the girls parents were not knowing to the courtship but the father accidentally caught them in some corner of the ship and immediat[e]ly took the man to task for courting h[i]s daughter without his consent and finally they got to high words and loud talk which brought quite a number of passengers list[e]ning to the conversation finally the captain was called upon to settle the difficultey and after inquiring in to the matter * he found that nothing of a criminal nature

* firstly the lady after going through a series of questions from the **f**ather she declared positively that she had not sought an interview with the man but that he was the agressor and that she had done nothing wrong on her part the man said her testimony was correct but he had fallen in love with the girl and wanted to marry her so the lady came of[f] un[h]urt and with flying colors and the man by making an honest confession got off as above stated.

had been done he fin[e]d the man a treat to as many of the passengers as were standing about so the man agreed [to] the captains decision and went [and] brought out his bottle and treated all that wanted to drink but the captain told him that if he was caught troubling the women again he should be compell[e]d to put him on shore this seemed to have the desired effect as there was nothing more seen or heard about courting on the boat during the remainder of the trip

My brother informed me that troops had rece[i]ved orders to move to the west and occupy the forts on the Mississippi Rock island Prairieduchien and to build a new fort on the reserve including the falls of St Anthony this reservation was purchased by Lieut Z M Pike in the years 1804 & 5 from the Medawakanton Sioux the troops had all ready mooved and my brother was packing up the last of the goods belonging to the Sutler Mr Louis Devotion and making preparations to follow in a few days so I found employment for a few days assisting [him] to pack goods for the use of the troops my brother left about the first of June a man by the name of Belcher another clerk had started with the troops /
 in a few days after Mr Devotion the proprietor left Detroit for New York to get a new stock of goods for to supply the troops for the winter I was then left alone with one man a servant of Mr Devotions by the name of thomas Hogan an Irish man not having much to do in the store the most of the goods having been pack[ed] and sent off I had time to study and I used the most of my time at my arithmetic Now and then I used to walk about the city and particularly along the river and look at the shot holes in the store houses along the levee that was thrown across from the british side in the time of the last war and little

did I then think of getting acquainted with the Sioux Indians and that I should le[a]rn from them that they several of them participated in the war on the part of the british and many a barb[a]rous story they told me about the cruelties of the other tribes and their treatment of the whites their women and children

I have left my history a little and now come back again and state as [I] was walking out one Sunday to church with our man or servant as people may choose to call them the family that I boarded with saw me walking with the hired man and when I went in to dinner the old lady of the house set at me and gave me a great lec[t]uring for going in company with such a man the familys name was Odren some old countrey french but of the first class of people but the wars had ruined them and they [had] lost nearly all they had and they were then keeping a few boarders at five dollars pr week to make a poor and scanty living I did not find out the real cause of the old ladys lecturing me for some days but the sequal worked out after a while and it was because I went to the Rom[a]ncatholic church with our servant that I got a reprimand the old lady & husb[an]d were protestants and the old lady sai[d] our servant was a deserter from the brittish and went on and abused him terribly behind his back I swallowed the whole patiently and kept it all to myself and after that walked alone in the day time but evenings I would get into a can[o]le and take a little sail on the Detroit and some times go as far as the canada side and back and the last time I tried to take a sail on the river got myself and man into [a] little difficulty about the boat that we were to have I had aske[d] a gentleman by the name of Dorr for the use of a boat that was lying in front of the

com[m]issarys store Mr Dorr was quarter master otherwise contractor for beef & several other things and used the gove[r]nment boats whenever he wanted to move his provisions with [sic] he told us we could use one of the boats. So about dark I and our man went down to the wharf to take a boat and all at once we were hail[e]d by some person near the com[m]issary store we look[ed] round and saw a soldier com[in]g towards us and hallowed as loud as he could and wanted to know what we were doing with the with the [sic] boats we told him that Mr. Dorr had loaned us one for to take a little sail on the river^{Ah} and by jabers I will let you know that Mr. Dorr nor yourselves has any right to take any of those boats this oath and threat came out in the full Irish brogue and sirs you are to stay under guard until I send for an officer and took his musket from his shoulder and stood in a threat[e]ning posture so if we moved he could be ready to fire on us and he commenced hallowing for the sergeant of the guard there we were compelled to stand about one hour before the officer of the day could be found and get a hearing of the case and no doubt our Irish centinell was quite happy to get a chance to show a little authority over an american this I know to be a fact from experience and have seen others in the power of the Irish soldiers they not only carry the laws to the utmost extent and are very insolent to a protestant persons [sic] and they ought not to be enlisted for soldiers for they know verry little about the use of fire arms and as they are enlisted for four years it takes them the whole term to learn the use of fire arms and^{there} is more drunkenness and disturbances got up by them than any other nation that helps make up our armies. after the officer

of the day arrived and heard our story he verry graci[o]u[s]ly told us to go about our business but warned us not to give them the officers any more trouble verry likely the officer of the day had been disturbed in some little party of pleasure which made him a little sour on the occasion and this ended our boat riding for the season.

during the summer 1819 a treaty was made with the Indians of Michigan territory Gove[r]nor Cass was one of the commissioners and purchased a large tract of countery at a trifling expense to the government after the treaty was made large delegations of [them] came frequently into the city of Detroit and they used to have terrible drunken spells in which man[y] were stabbed and severals [sic] were killed from the effects of strong water and large numbers stil wore British ornaments guns and swords which they used to carry about brandishing them through the streets in the wildest kind [of] phrenzey and troops often had to be called on to take them into custiday.

An election was held to elect a delegate to congress in the forepart of October or September I do not now recollect but I believe that a gentleman by the name of Wing was elected here a stratagem of the Irish soldiers was shown forth all though the officers of the Territory were acquainted with the facts nothing was said about the deception the party above named went and borrowed a large quantity of citizens clothes and dressed up as citizens and went to the polls and voted then home to their quart[er]s and and [sic] another party would take the same clothes and dress up and go the polls and vote and so they worked until they got in between 2 & 300 votes. Judge Williams I beli[e]ve was the name of the oposing delegate.

One day I was bussey at some thing about the store and I got the hired man to black my shoes for me Mr Devotion the owner the proprietor or owner [sic] of the establishment came accidentally and saw his man at work blacking my shoes and asked him whose shoes he was blacking he said the young clerk at which the owner Mr. D. flew into a passion and forbid the man ever blacking my shoes again and then came to me and wanted to know if I had come out there to be waited upon and swore some and told me never to employ the man to black my shoes again and actually insisted on my getting some slush to grease my shoes and did not stop abusing me until I went and cleaned my shoes myself at this time mony was verry scarce in detroit and many of the business men had for their convenience and some for cheating had issued those little bills called shin plasters from 6 1/4 cents to one dollar this was caused on account mostly of the suspencion of business after the war. One Rev Mr Ishard a Roman Catholic priest was building a large stone church at Detroit and the old gentleman could not make a rais[e] of funds the times being verry hard and mony scarce so he set to work and issued a large amount of these little shin plasters and at first redeemed them for a while until he had got some thousands of dollars issued and then stoped payment under the following supposition that a large amount of his bills had been counterfeited and when people would go to the old gentleman with some of his bills for payment he would commence examin[in]g them and throwing them out and he would say dat is counterfeit and dat is counterfeit ^{& dat is counterfeit} and so on until he would throw out about three-fourths of the amount and the report was that he raised enough to pay for his church and get out [of] debt by pronouncing his own bills forgeries and not redeeming them.

After Mr Devotion returned from Newyork with his supply of goods

for the winters trade we commenced packing the few old goods and our provisions and getting the new assortment ready for shipment in the latter part of September and a sloop called the Loyal Hannah if I recollect righ[t] was the name and capt Belden[was]master and part owner Mr Devotion and the captain were three days bartering before they could agree upon a price for the charting of the sloop# finally the[y] agreed after three days and I believe the price was to be seven hundred dollars for the trip from Detroit to Green bay as near as I can recollect in a few days the sloop was loaded and all was ready for a start and our master had settled up all his business except one thing that was his housekeeper a woman or lady as those that choose may call her this woman had been brought out from N.Y. by Mr D and he had kept her sev[e]ral years in an old french family living a short distance from the store the great trouble was to get rid of this woman and send her back to Newyork# that kept him three days for she was determined to go with him to the wist and many tears she shed, and clung to Mr.D. with a great display of love &c and no kind of persuasion could induce her to leave him and the onley way he got rid of her was by threats and mony of which no doubt he had to shell out pretty largely to prevent exposure and they parted and the sloop sail[ed] for Green Bay with a light breeze but got becalmed on the shoals or flats in the lake above Detroit (Lake St. Clair) there being onley about seven feet [of] water on the bars/# the captain did not like to sail until he got a fair wind fearful if he beat up he would get aground by run[n]ing out of the chanel whils[t] laying to the schooner Jackson passed on her way down to Detroit We had a poor lot of provisions both for cabin and sailors salt pork and salt beef and from the looks of the meat I should think the captain had taken

all the fat off to greas[e] the mast and yards & riggin[g] of the sloop and hard bread and coffee made in an iron boiler which made the coffee almost as ^{b[1]}ack as ink and about as muddy as the old darkeys face that made it / # these 4 items was about all that we had three times a day during the voyage Whilst we were working up the river some Indians came along side with some fine fish for sale mostly large black bass and asked a hard buiscuit a piece for them the capt said it was too much and would not take any so we had to take to our salt bones again We got ^awind from the south east which caused us to moove up stream slowly and as we passed along some farmer came out to us with melons for sale some the finest I ever saw and offered them for 5 & 10 cents a piece But the captain said they were to dear and would not purchase any but Mr Devotion purchased 2 or 3 and we made out to get a taste of some thing fresh which was quite refreshing after having lived on salt junk for five days as the sun rose the wind rose with it and about ten oclock in the morning we came to Fort Gratiot at the entrance of Lake Huron / # as we sailed along we could see the white fish and trout when the water was about twen[t]y feet deep, as the capt informed us, Fort Gratiotⁿ [sic] was small wooden fort made of hewn logs / # it commanded the entrance of the lake it is at this fort that the Sioux warriors became frightened when on their way to join the British army at Detroit and Sandusky it appears that a few British troops and some 3 or 4 hundred Indians had attacked fort Gratiot and had been repulsed / # the Sioux in passing at a distance saw several bodies of Indians that had been awfully torn by cannon balls & shot and some were cut completely in two the sight allarmed them verry much and they said

they took good care to keep a good distance from the forts and out of range of the big guns. as we came to enter the lake there is quite a rapide current but the wind had raised to quite a breeze so that the old sloop went through the rapid without using a rope there is quite an eddy on the north side as you go up and the captain took advantage of this eddy and as the sloop emerged from it and struck the current coming out of the lake the vessell all most stoped and the water rolled up round the bows about 4 feet high from the force of the current rushing out of the lake but she had headway enough to carry her through and the moment the vessell came into the still water the sailers all gave a shout and on we saild into the open lake and away we saild for Mackinaw the wind kept rising at last some of the yards began to crack hands aloft the captain cried up they scampered as fast as they could take a reef in the topsail and on we went at fearful speed the right aft the captain kept up sail until we got opposite thunder Bay Islands here the wind ^{so} blew furious take a reef in the main sail and the captain had to to [sic] furl the topsail and in this way we arrived at Mackinaw the captain and Mr. Devotion went on shore and up to the fort to report to the commanding officer where they were going and what freighted with &c &c When the captain and Mr Devotion came ^{on} board I got permission with the mate ^{and our man} to go and take a look at the fort and town and we went and took a look at the old fort that had been taken by the British and had been demolished and abandoned and a new one had been built lower down and nearer the water than the old one the old fort was on the highest peak of the island and was verry difficult getting wood and water and was supposed to be impregnable and I should of thought so myself from the many ditches and water holes I would of thought that any force

that could have been brought in those days could not of taken the place and I suppose would not have done so if the Americans had not of agreed to capitulate and in this way got in the whole of the old fort appeared to be intrenched and a great m[a]ny cross ones from ten to fifteen feet deep. and some of them were made to contain water for two purposes probably to prevent troops from crossing and to keep a supply of water handy, as it was very difficult to get water from the lake, the hill side being so verry steep the new fort I did not go inside of it it being late we hurried on board of our old sloop

the next morning preparations were maid for another sail across lake Michigan some fisher men came along side and offered some fine fish trout and whitefish but our captain was to hard for us again and would not pay the customary price but the owner of the goods Mr Devotion bought a few and so we had one mess of good fish from the clear waters of the great western lakes the fishing is generally carried on by the french and half breeds with what they call gill netts the netts are from 100 to 150 feet in length the meshes of the net are about 4 or 5 inches square the fish in passing get their heads through and there hang by the gills and the most of them are a live when taken out as they generally visit the nets ev[e]ry morning the water is from 30 to 40 feet deep where th[e]y fish Small stones are tied to the bottom of the nets and strips of red cedar wood about 2 feet long and about 2 inches wide in the centre and taper each way the sticks keep the net spread to its full height being about 4 or 5 feet there is a stick or a float as th[e]y are called opposite ev[e]ry stone or sinker and this keeps all the meshes or squares even with each other. the Indiahs als[o] catch

a great ma[n]y fish and the half breeds also catch considarebile quantities the trout are caught amongst the white fish as the trout prey upon the white fish the white fish must live by suction I should say for they have a mouth verry much like a sucker these fish weigh from 4 too 10 ^{lbs} each

the wood used by the inhabitants is mostly brough[t] in old vessels from the adjacent islands this island of Mackinaw was noted for sev[e]ral years for a great missionary school where hundred[s] of half breeds has been taught a common education also the island of Mackinaw was noted as a great rendevous for all the northern[er] traders the month of June and July the place used to be filled with all classes of people English Irish French & Americans half breeds and Indians and I have often heard them say that the island of Mackinaw was the greatest place in the north for pleasure

Now before the sloop got ready to sail I got another raking down about gre[a]sing my shoes Moy [sic]old boss caught the man cle[an]ing my shoes one morn[in]g on the vessell and stoped him and called me and set me to work at the slush tub again but by the by these [sic] there was but little to be had for the captain watch[ed] the slush tub pretty close and he found there was enough to pay for the trouble he would have it all rubbed on the mast and riggin[g] and spars after all was ready we sailed out of the Straits of Mackinaw

the first day we got along verry well but the second day there came on a blow from the north west the captain tried ^{to} beat up against it and sailed out so far north that he came near getting on to some shoals of sand the wind kept increas[ing] in violence and a great [wave] rose which made our old tub of a vesell rool[sic] and toss at a great rate. finnaly the captain saw he was loosing

ground and it was get^{ting} near night and the the [sic] lake [looke]d
frightful with a raging sea So he bout ship and nearly before
the wind under close reef mainsail and in about one hour we were back
where we starde [sic] from an island under the lea ^o of which we
took shelter but befor[e] day light the wind calmed down so that we
laid quite easy although we had rolled and toosed nearly all night
from the agitation of the water by the force of the wind and sea /#
We found 30 fathoms of water not a great distance from the island /#
We found some Indian[s] here wind bound the[y] brought alongside
some fish but the captain as usual would not give a buiscuit a piece
for them here we had an opportunity of seeing the bark canoe ride
upon the swells from the lake Was there strength equal to their
bouncing ~~the~~ the bark canoe ~~o~~ would make the greatest life boats that
could be found the bark can[o]le rode the swells like a duck and
not a parteckle of water appeared to splash over the bow or sides
but they are so frail that they are easily broken but in the north
there [is] no other canoe used the canoes carry from 2 to 10 men
and the trader[s] use a great many of them on the small rivers for
transporting goods for the India[n] trade also for fishing and
about the great lakes the French fisher men use them in winter when
fishing the object of using them in winter is the ice often mooves
from the shore by the force of the winds and the people that sets
their nets under the ice would be carried off and lost if they did
not take the p[r]ecaution to take a canoe along so if they [sic]
ice should move they can jump into the canoe and paddle to shore
again the ice sometimes makes out 5 or 6 mil[es] from shore and
the fisherman go out and cut holes and set the nets under the ice
and take all winter in this way at day break

at daybreak the wind had calmed down a little and the captain set sail again and run out from und[e]r the lea of the island and beat up against a head wind until about ten oclock when the wind commenced blowing a gale again from the west and tremendous sea commenced rolling but the capt battled against it all day until near night and found he was making no progress and the clouds looked verry stormy and dangerous so the capt bout ship again and run before the wind again and came verry near of being blown to the point of the island that we had left in the morning We just missed it and that was all and run of[f] about a mile south east and brought up under the lea of a small island with perpendicular sand banks and verry deep water here we laid and rolled all night and I suppose one cause of our sloops rolling so was the great high mast she had the wind calmed down a little in the night and the [sic] got under way early in the morning again the wind commenced veering round to the southard and finally got fair

the mate was at the helm for the captain had turned in to rest a little as he had been 3 days and two nights without much rest or sleep the mate went to the capt and told him the wind was getting fair the captain ordered the sails set square to the wind and then the old sloop made water boil again around her bows the [sic] rested til about noon the mate told him they were of[f] Washingtons harbor the capt got up and ordered them to run in between some islands and went to the helm and the mate went up to the mast head to look out by this time we had got in between two islands the main on the south was quite large from appearance and did not appear to be half a mile off in a few minutes we heard rumbling under the bottom of the sloop the mate cried out rocks and she jumped over them her whole length the

captain wheel[ed] her out of the wind the[n] we lay drifting for a
 few minut[e]s and not touch any more the mate said he thought
 we were over and the captai[n] put her before the wind again a
 lucky escape that says the capta[i]n yes says the mate I
 was thinking about a box or a barrel to hang on to for I expected
 to se[e] the bottom out of the old thing in a few minutes more /#
 the capt said he never knew bad luck without some good luck with
 it We got cl[ear] of Washington harbor without any more trouble /#
 Next came green bay about 2 or 3 oclock the bay is verry shoal
 mostly mud[d]y bottom and the water was quite rily so much w[e]
 could see nothing Where there was a foot of water in a bucket
 and there was a long heavy sea runn[ing] over the great flat bar of
 sand and mud /# the black man was at mast head looking out for
 breakers of which there were some near the entrance of the chan-
 nel that comes out from Fox river /# all at once the darkey sung out
 breakers right ahead /# the capt was at the helm but did not mind
 the old d[a]rk[e]ly so kept in his course the man sang out again
 breakers a head captain you goin right on em and hastened down
 as fast as he could and ran about the deck almost frantick hallow-
 ing captain you smash de sloop &c the captai[n] gave the wheel
 to the mate and went up to mast head and there stood watching
 the breader /# [sic] which we could now see from the deck and all hands
 stood shivering expecting we should strik[e] /# the mate stuck to
 the helm and kept on the course right straight for the breakers /#
 probably some mate would have mutinie[d] and taken his own course
 and we would all have been lost but no he kept on and directly
 he got a signal from the captain the sloop turned her course
 and away she slip[p]ed in between two piles of breakers where
 the water was dashing over at frightful rate # the vessel was now
 ^

in the channel and the Fort was in sight the captain came down and says old darcy what do you think the old man brought in a verry long sigh and said lord amassa I thot we were all loss ^[sic] in a few minutes we were at the fort the captain called and reported and delivered the mail &c when we sailed up the river about a mile to Mr John Laws Where the goods was to be stored the captain was in a great hurry for the season was getting late for sailing and it was dangerous on account of so mainly North Westers an old saying is prais[e] the bridge that carries you safely over I think ~~the~~ captain Belden navigated and worked us through probably better than many captains would have done in the circumstances running through so many shoals and adverse winds to encounter and no damage or loss/ I think we can afford to prais[e] the captain/ We took up board at Mr Laws for a few days until the goods were all stored/ then Mr Devotion rented a small house of Mr Law and we kept hous[e] by ourselves for some days as we could not get boats to go up the Fox river with the boats had all been taken away by the traders for to transport goods and provisions for the winter trade/ after waiting and hunting several days they found an old Mackinaw boat a leaky old thing Mr Devotion had it repaired as welll as could be done in that place and had it loaded with goods bound for Prairie Duchien on the Mississippi/ it was very difficult to get hands enough to manage the boat/ finally he found 2 french men 2 half breeds and a Menomine Indian and we started loaded down to the waters edge I had passed the Indian agents office/ an old french man the name I have forgotten this house and four or five others were all that were at Green bay when I landed there/ We went on one day with our boat and camped at night at the foot of a very strong rapid the next morning we tried to get over the rapid

with our load but we could do nothing our load was to[o] heavy and the water to[o] strong for our force so we unloaded half and tried that and got almost but some of the men slip[p]ed and the boat got a start backwards or downwards and away it went down stream over rocks and rapids/# as the boat was starting two men jumped into it and went over the rapids in it and caught up about half a mile below and they tried again but with no better success except they kept the boat from drifting so far We found that we could do nothing as our boat was old and leaky and not hands enough to manage so heavy a load and the french men got discouraged and said they would not if some of the load was not taken out and the boat had commenced [] leaking verry much/# So I finally concluded to go back and see Mr Devotion and tell him how things were one of the men went back with me the man that was employed as guide & steerman of the boat/# I [left] the boat in charge of an other french man and started We got back about ten oclock in the morning and I went and reported the facts to Mr. Devotion he did not say much at first and appeared to be studdying [sic] what to do after a while he told me to go back and unload the boat and get it turned up so as to have it ready for calking when he should get up ther[e] and when I started he followed me out [sic] for some distance from the house and asked me how I came to leave the boat/# I [said] we could not get along and there was no use of staying there and do[ing] nothing/# Well said he you could have sent a french man/# I said they could not speak french English that was nothing to you he said and he commen[c]ed cursing me at a [MS. torn] rate and I never [heard] such abuse fr[om] [a] man before nor since I started on w[ith] my heart full of sorrow and my eyes full of tears I thought then I would rat[her] be at home if it was a

poor place than be amongst so much aristocracy as I found amongst the Western people the most of the business was carried on by a few pretended rich and they had under them many men that were treated as much like slaves as any thing else and nobody of common cast could associate with these big bugs nor go near them unless his hat was under his arm in the evening I arrived at the boat again tired and hungry [sic] I went to the boat and took a little spirits and gave my pilot and guide some and got some supper/# the Indian we had along saw us when we drank some spirits and asked why I did not give him some and sed [sic] if I did not give him some he would go back I told him the liquer [sic] was not for him nor any of the rest of the hands but I was verry tired is the only reason I drunk some/# he found he could not scare me into his wish he we[n]t to sleep and never troubled me any more on that subject In the morn[ing] we wen[t] to work and upset the boat and [c]ommenced working the goods round the rapids by hand/ the distance was not long but was rough with rocks. we worked all day and at night had got the goods nearly all the goods [sic] far enough so that we could load them above the main rapids the next day some of the men went hunting but found no game in the dusk of the evening a deer came galloping down to the river from the opposite side and walked into the water and walked straight across the rapids/# the men saw it and out with the[i]r guns and ran up a little d[i]stance and waited for the deer to come out of the water and shot it and we had a great feast that night roasting and boiling In the morni[n]g I went to look at the deer meat wishing to keep some for my old master as he was expected that [day] and I found that the deer was half gone I enquired what had become of the venison the[y] said they had eat it in the evening the

master arrived in a small boat with two men and a few goods his
 man went to work and cooked some supper for him from the venison
 that I had hard work to keep a piece for him in the morni[n]g /[#]
 My master got up a little better natured than he had been a few
 days before. the french men had learnt how he had treated me when
 I went to report to him our condition and said if he went to
 swearing at them ~~they~~ would leave and go back So he had to treat
 us a little more civilly for there [were] no other hands that he
 could get ^[MS. torn] ~~a~~ it was with much difficulty [MS. torn] the few that
 were going with [MS. torn] all hands went [to] work on the boat,
 [MS. torn] got it calked and pitched the next day we tried the
 rapids again with the empty boat and with hard pulling we got
 the empty boat up and loaded and started and still found it verry
~~so~~ difficult getting along the water was so verry ~~low~~ low
 that every little rapid we cam[e] too [sic] we had to unload have
 [sic] the goods and take the other half away ahead and then come
 back and get the remainder and so we worked along until we got
 up to Winebago lake and I think we had to repair our boat 3 or 4
 time[s] in going about 30 miles the river was so low and the
 rocks sharp that calking would pulled ^[sic] out of the seams of the
 boat nearly every day finally our pitch gave out then we had to
 use tallow and ashes which served verry well [sic] as the water
 had by this time got verry ~~so~~ cold and every morning there was
 [ice]? along the shore of the stream on our way we passed an
 old French mans hut the men of the boat said he had lived there
 a great ma[n]y years all alone and all the companion he had was
 a pig and the hands said the pig used to eat out of one end of
 the trough and the old french man would eat out of the other end
 and ~~they~~ dispute for the largest share of food When we got [to]

Winebago lake we were over the rapids We stop[p]ed and wa[r]med as the wind was blowing quite fresh and our boat was qu[i]te heavy laden We had to lay too ^[sic] ~~^~~ half a day / # at the entrance of the lake was an old Winebago village the men went to hunting for [caches] cashes of corn but found none except a cash or two of potatoes but they were mostly rotten the Winnebagoes had lived here from [time] immemorial as the country once abounded with deer and elk and wild fowl in abundance and the Winebago lake furnished them with great quantiti[e]s of fish and with their gardens they lived in plenty / # and ~~being~~ being at peace with all nations they lived apparently happy ~~only~~ when the strong water got amongst them then most always some of them got killed which allways kept up fam[i]ly feuds and intestine wars amongst them after dusk the wind went down and we started and got about half way through the lake and the wind commenced to blow and we had to go ashore again but the wind did not blow long / # so we started again and got through about daylight and landed for breakfast # Winebago lake is about nine miles wide where we crossed it the men were all sleepy having been up all night and laid down and took a nap Whilst the breakfast was cooking the weather was begin[n]ing to get cold and ice was makeing [sic] verry ~~fast~~ fast We rowed and polled and toiled all day and got to Lake Apockway, or Rush lake about dark and found the lake frozen over the pilot said if we did not go through that night we could not get through at all so we went to work with our polls and and [sic] axes and every thing ^[MS. torn] they could find about the boat that would break ice and broke ice and polls and oars and every thing else that was breakable ⁱ and finally had to give [up] the ice was too strong for us and we turned back about midnight to try to get a landing and when we got back where

we commenced breaking the ice at the foot of the lake we had to leave our boat some distance from the shore as the ice where we first commenced breaking had frozen so hard again that it would bear a man up. So we left the boat abo-out [sic] 2 oclock in the night and walked ashore on the ice almost ~~perished~~ perished with cold our boat men were pretty expert in kindling fires and they soon had one a going but it was [a] cold ble[a]k place and we could not engoy [sic] the fire much only to keep from freezing When day light came we moved further into the wood and made a good camp and got breakfast and went to work to unload the boat the goods had to be carried and rolled about the 1/8 of a mil^l [sic] to get to the place where we wanted to build a store house for the winter as we supposed after the boat was unloaded Mr Devotion kept the hands one week to build a store house there had formerly been a trading house here and part of it was standing yet which we used for a kitchen or cook room. So we had only a store hous[e] to build When this was done in a rough man[ner] of round logs and a few puncheons for a roof the boat hands left us and returned home

About this time our provisions began to get scarce ~~and~~ and our master Mr Devotion putt~~ed~~ us on about half rations that is the hired man and myself as for himself he did not work any therefore did not eat much but our servant or man done the cooking and frequently before meal time we used to get a lunch from the kettle so that when we went to the table we could be as modest about our eating as the master of the house here is the first place that I saw grouse I was out hunting one day and a flock flew up and some of them lit on trees and I crawled up behind other trees and got a shot with one of these old English chief fowling

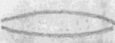
pieces I missed my bird I was so anxious to get one that it
 excited me so much that I sighted the bird and not the gun/ I missed
 twice but the third time I made out to break ones wing and got it
 and started for home When I got home master asked me what I had
 been firing at so much I told him som[e] fowls that I did not know
 what they were & said he its a grouse Well I said [I] never
 saw one before therefore I was anxious to get one made shoot until
 I got one [sic] Will he said it would [be] good to make a freco^[sic] or stew,
 so he had it cooked to suit himself and not being any to well
 supplied at our meals we found it verry good about a week
 after the men left us Mr Devotion got news that some of his goods
 that had been sent forward as far as the portage had got wet and were
 likely to be damaged/ so he said I must go and look after them We
 had no guide and what to do we did not know in a day or two a
 discharged soldier from the Fort came along and said he was going
 to Prairie Duchien he said no but said he meant to follow
 along in sight of the river until he got to the portage/ there he
 could get in with some te[a]ms hauli[n]g supplies for the traders/ #
 So Mr Devotion hired him to go with me to the portage between the Fox
 and Wisconsin rivers and return with me So we got ready and Mr
 Devotion told us to go to Mr Grignoës a trader living a days march
 above us on the fox river and ask him for a guide to [go] with us
 to the portage and back again We found the traders hous[e]
 without much trouble which was a lucky hit for us in a strange
 countery and winding about amongst the hills and brush if we
 had of got lost there was no help for us for we had no provisions
 and it was cold and we should have perished in a short time but we
 got in safe and the old trader give us a good warm supper of
 venison and [a] good bed of blankets altho-ough [sic] it was in

one of these lodges all open at the top that the trader was passing the winter happy by the side of a young Indian woman apparently ~~neat~~ neat and clean of the Menominee tribe. Next morning we started early with our french man for a guide and traveled all day until near sun set when we came to our place of destination all most tired out and hungry [#] as it is not customary to halt at mid day for a lunch the days being short and cold we traveled [sic] the whole day without eating and here got amongst another class of people [#] the Winebagoes were here and such another gibberage I never heard in my life and french mixed up with the Indian dialect none of which I did not understand words hovered ^[?] by signs and a few words of english that the french man understood I made out to make him understand my business up to the portage that was to examine the goods and see that all was safe and dry and got a good fire started in the store room and commenced opening the boxes and found the goods in good order and nailed them up again and gave a few raisins to the family that were trading there and got ready to start back. the french man had had some venison ^[?] [#] I wanted a ham or thigh and I think we parlied and made signs for about half an hour before I could make him understand what I wanted I kept calling the venison cow meat and the french man gave it some name that I could not understand [#] so at last I took the man showed him the venison and by signs got him to understand what I wanted [#] so we got a thigh of venison and I packed it on to my french guide and we started early and I kept along with them until about 3. oc then I started ahead on the track that we had made going up as there was about 4 inches of snow and it made good traveling and a plain track the frenchman worked hard to keep up with me and

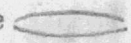


kep[t] close to me for about half an hour when he began too[sic] lag he had the meat to carry but was a much stronger man than I was When he found he could not keep up with me he commenced jabbering about some thing and fell back with the other man the discharg[e]d soldier who was at this time far behind I pushed on and got in about sundown and about an hour before the guide & soldier I had brought along some loaf sugar and some raisins for the old french trader when we put up the old gentleman, Mr Grgnoe, [sic] had a warm supper got for us but I notice[d] the frenchman did not eat with us and after we had got through with our meal I went into the next room and saw my guide and another french man at supper I saw there was onley [sic] one dish on the table so I had a curiosity to see what they were eating so sided up towards the table and I suppose they noticed I was a little curious and offered me some of their repast I politely declined saying I had just finished my supper but merely wand [sic] a taste to see what th[e]y were eating/ they said corn plenty corn but little grease poor french man nothing but corn and little grease all winter all winter and after[wards] I found that the traders hired their men in canada for a term of four years and to be paid from fifty to one hundred dollars per annum and cloth[e] themselves and to have one pint of corn and one ounce of grease pr day and the promise of some thing a little extra if the game in the country^e would justify the trader in issuing any different kind of food/ and so the poor can[a]dians had to live four years on corn and grease mostly and carry heavy burthens [sic] on their backs and row boats and canoes and do a large amount of other hard labor for a mere pittance of from 50\$ to 100\$ per annum [] & fed on corn and grease Earley [sic] in the

morning I started with my discharged soldier for home again on Rush Lake/[#] to day my soldier had to pack the venison which worried him verry ~~much~~ much, and about 4 oc P. M. I started ahead and left my man to come on aloane [sic] and I got in a little after sundown but my man did not get in until sometime after dark almost tired to death and in fact was laid up a week from the fatigue of the journey after our arrival at home our old master continued his economy on the provisions and we had only about half an allowance young and growing healthy people we had a few traps which we set trying to get some kind of game that would give us food or sustenance for our bodies but the wild animals weret~~o~~ much for us and kept out of our traps/[#] so we lived on our half rations the best way we could until a team a team [sic] arrived from Prairie du Chien by the ice and land/[#] Mr Belcher in charge to get a supply of goods for the troops and I was ordered to porcede [sic] with the company and further ordered to procede [sic] from prairie du chien to the falls of St anthony with goods for the troops /[#] acc[or]dingly preparations were made for the journ[ely] and I started with the train for Prairie du chien with some seven or eight one horse sledges all managed by canadians/[#] all though we had hard work in traveling in the cold which was verry ~~intense~~ intense we were glad to get where we could get something to eat and made our journey ~~from~~ from Rush lake to P. Duchien in five days [#] as nothing particular happened on this piece of the road I wil[[#]] commence from P. Du chien a gain after staying a few days at the Praire ~~and~~ and witnessed the preperations for the holidays which were quite comical in some respects by the canadians, we got our train ready for another march up the Mississippi ~~the~~ the weather was extremely cold but the ice was good and we traveled all the way on

the ice from P. Duchien to Fort Shelling with only one accident that was a few miles below St Croix We had camped at a trader house by the name of Farribault to rest our teams and get a little rest for our selves as we had been traveling for several days and sleeping out on the snow all the teamsters agreed to have one days rest at the traders house but the Indians broke up our plan of repose a large number of them came in families and all and made their camp near the trader house and fearing the Indians would steal our goods we were obliged to hitch up our teams and start although it was nearly sundown and verry cold the Indians looked curious and singular to me and I scrutinized all their operations both men and women and before we started the trader had been through the camp collecting his credits and got into some trouble by taking goods from an Indian that had not been able to pay up the amount due the trader therefore the trader took from the Indian his gun, traps & a large kettle the Indian remonstrated and told the trader he was taking too much but the trader said no and so a quarrel commenced and the trader came near being killed for exacting too much of the Indians and amongst the Indians I noticed a family of a different appearance from the other Indians that appeared to associate with the trader[s] family on relative terms and dressed different and looked cleanly in comparison to the other Indians and amongst them was a young Miss which attracted the attention of the family of the trader and when they assembled together they appeared to be all one family/ and there were some mixed blood girls that were as well built as white women that could be found only they had a little of the olive tint but were straight and good countenances

the man[ne]r of r[a]ising the children amongst the Sioux is to lash them to a board for about one year for 4 or 6 hours pr day and in this way they must grow straight but after they get to be 12 years old th[e]y begin to carry heavy burthens and at the age of 30 they begin to give way under heavy loads that is carried by straps across the head and they begin to get bow legged & crooked backed and loose all their good form and features. # After we started one team broke through the ice Not having ever seen any thing of this kind it allarmed [sic] me but I had to take one team and make for land but I was afraid every step I took for fear I should break through but I got safe to land while the french man got a rope round the horses neck and got his harness off and th[e]y all got hold of the rope and drag[g]led the horse out but the animal was verry much chilled and must have suffered verry much from the groaning that he made /# but as soon as the horse was pulled out which act appeared to be performed verry easily as the men pulled on the rope it choked the hors[e] and he commenced kicking or strug[g]ling and floated on his side and was quickly pulled out and blanke[t] thrown over him and a mand [?] jumped on to him with a good whip and run him for about ten minutes /# then he stopped and th[e]y took hay and rubbed him down then gave him another canter by this time we had got a fire started we got the horse up to the fire and smoke and he soon dried up as well as ever all though the weather was verry cold Now another trouble was on hand Some of the load had sunk and the men cut some long polls  and fastened some large nails to the ends of the polls the ends of the nails were bent so that they got hold of some tobacco kegs and got them safely out all but one keg that night the next morning the men raised the other keg

and we hitched up and started again and came as far as olive grove, now Hastings here we found Lieut Oliver with a small party of soldiers watching a keel boat load of provisions that had got frozen in in [sic] the fall and from here we had a good road and arrived without any more trouble/ I found my brother well and you never saw a more delighted company of people as the officers and soldiers were on our arrival, for they had been out of groceries for a mo[n]th or more and the scurvey had got amongst the troops and there had allready died about fifty men before I got there and several died after I arrived their rations was nothing but rusty pork and bread some of them would go to bed apparently well at night and be found dead in the morning/ others would live a week some 2 or three days & so on the commanding officer Colonel Leavenworth sent a party of soldiers over to the St Croix and they found some spruce by Dr. E. Purcells direction the doctor ordered a tea to be made of the spruce and had it well sweetened and made them use vinegar freely and some spirits and the scurvey soon left them but about seventy men fell victims to the disease before its progress was baffled Some of their bones were not long since sticking out of a bank from whence gravel had been taken for the fort the blankets that the soldiers had been buried in were but little decayed also the hair although they had been buried some twenty years/ the coffins were all decayed and nothing but bones hair and pieces of the blankets were found when they were disinterred the troops had arrived at the mouth of the St Peter River, Minnesota, in September before I arrived the[r]e and commenced building winter quarters at the mouth of the Minnesota river on the south bank as there was a large quantity of timber handy they had got verry comfortable quarte[r]s both for officers and men in

the form of a fort with four gate ways and was quite formidable against Indians as the buildings were of logs a foot through /[#] some of the old chimneys stil[l] remain to mark the place of the first fort the chimneys were of stone and long since fallen and over grown with earth and little mounds marke  the spot and shape of the old fort I passed the winter in a little building out side the fort with my brother trading with the soldiers and nothing was done the first winter only to provide for themselves. in the spring the troops were all movved [sic] over to camp cold water where there were some bea[utiful] springs for their health as the physic[i]an and comm[an]di[n]g officer thought the present location very un-healthy being sarounded ^[sic]  by flats and swamps So it took all summ[er] to build new quart[er]s and make some gardens for the office[r]s and the troops [#] during this summer * ¹ Govern[or] Cass arrived here from his northern tour a salute was fired and some counselling with Indians and the governor started on his journey down the river again Nothong ^[sic] of importance was done dur[ing] the summer ^[1] except some parties had been sent out to look for pine timber to build a fort on the point of land between the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers [#] 1820 a few sticks of timber had been hewed and haul[e]d to the ground that Col Leavenworth had selected for the first ^[sic]  on the rise about 3 or 400 yards west of the present fort Snelling the parties that had been in search of pine timber returned and reported large quantities on rum river

[1. The two notes copied on the following pages are attached to the manuscript at this place.]

* When we would all assemble at our depot at Lands End the clerks and men would have a jolley time for a few days running foot races jumping wrestling and shooting at a mark[#] in the sports whilst we were firing^[sic] at a mark with my brothe[r]s pistols I forgot the pistol was cocked and raised the muz[z]le carlessley [sic] straight up and off went the pistol and [I] suppose the ball did not miss my head more than two inches it staggered me some and frightened [me] more and I quit the pistols for that day and another day I got to wrestling with a man by the name of Noble a clerk of the company he was about my height & thick stout built and considerable heavier than I was the first fall we broke hand and cou[n]ted nothing as we both fell on our hands the second fall I threw him fairley he got up and said he would throw me or break his legs[#] So we tried it again and he made [a] desperate lunge at me and threw his whole weight onto me [and] at the same time gave my ankle a blow and wrench and I fell with a broken ankle which kept me lame for near two months. at nights we used to get together and have^a duck soup some half a dozen of us there was one of our company we used to take pleasure in playing little tricks on him and we would get him in to our suppers[#] after we would get through we would [sic] comm^[1]ence scuffling and we would manage so as all to get on top of our man and then we would roll and toss until he would hollow murder and every thing else and after he had got a good fumbling we would let him up the moment he could get a chan^[sic]ced he would make track as fast as he could get a way

* When I was trading at Lands End I went out to get some of my credits an Indian that was along in compa[n]y also Mr Campbell and several others ~~some~~ were along We were going to a Wahpacoota camp high upon cannon river the first night we camped this Indian got at my pack and stole a paper of small brooches there was about 500 in the paper and cost about 30 dollars as th[e]y were made of pure silver but there was so many in [the] company that I did not know who to lay the theft upon and said nothing and came back home and in 4 or 5 days the Indian com[e] into my my [sic] hous[e] with his hair strung full of my new brooches I wright [sic] to col Snelling and told him the circumstances and he sent some soldiers and had him taken up and put in the guard house and sent word to the Indians to come in the thief told them where they could find the brooches at the end of three days the Indians came in and brought the brooches th[e]y asked for food saying th[ey] were verry hungry/[#] the col told them he did not feed thevs[sic] and told them he was agoi[n]g to keep the thief 20 days in the guard house and took his gun worth probably 2 dollars[s] and gave [it] to me for the brooches that were missing and shut the the [sic] gentleman up he stayed in about two^{2.} days and made that he was verry sick. probably he was some what hungry the Col thought he had frightened him a little and let him out When he got off a little distance he started on a run and made the snow fly behind him and never was seen abt the fort until the s[i]oux men [were] shot for firing into the chippewa camp the man was one of the party and was shot with the rest

[2. From here to the end of the paragraph written in margin of manuscript.]

In the spring of 1821 Col Leavenworth was ordered to the Missouri and Col Snelling was ordered to take command at St. Peter, on [the] Minnesota river. Col Snelling changed the location of the new fort and made it on the precipice at the junction of the two rivers, and ordered a party to the Falls of St. Anthony to commence a saw mill to make lumber for the fort

1821 the troops was obliged to return to their old quarters in the winter of 20 & 21 at the mouth of the St. Peters while several parties were sent out to cut and hew timber for the fort and besides this the men had to cut and haul all the wood they burnt by hand on hand sleds a large number of pine logs had been cut and haul[e]d by hand by the soldiers to the bank of the Rum river but the mill was not ready for runn[ing] or sawing [1825?]. til[l] the summer of 1852¹ at this time the water [was] so verry low in the Mississippi river that the Government teams used too [sic] cross over from the main shore to the island for timber for the mill for 2 years there was not much done worthy of note the whole command being occupied in building [#] there were about 300 men and officers to command them the officers names I will give so far as I can recollect Col Leavenworth Col J. Snelling Major Forsythe Major Larabee Capt. Gooding, Capt McCabe engineer of the fort building, Li[e]ut W. G Camp Qu[ar]ter Master Li[e]ut McCartney Li[e]ut Wilkinson Li[e]ut Hobart Li[e]ut Green, adjutant, Major. Hamilton Lieut. Oliver Dr E. Purcelle Louis Devotion Setler^[sutler] Li[e]ut Harris Li[e]ut Clark (Capt. Clark commissary) Capt. Pelham³ and a band master Mr Kerphew from which company Mr Jos. R. Brown sprung this is all the names that I can recollect as the first officers the[y] commenced^[3] the work on Fort Snelling[#] all things went on peaci-

[3. This name was written in the margin.]

bly until the fall of 1822 when an order was received from Washington to demand of the Suseton [sic] Indians a murder[er] the Sussetons [sic] of Minnesota it appears had been over to the Missouri and murdered a white man there Col Snelling made the demand and 2 relatives of the murder[er] was brought in as hostages the Indians made a great show and parade on the delivery of the two hostages firing guns hooping yelling running to and fro with all sorts of jesticulation. a formall [sic] delivery was made of the hostages out side the fort the gates all closed and the cannon [were] all ready in case of an attack the Indians said that their great father had demanded some of the [i]r bodies. here they are kill and eat if you wish if not we hope you will return them safe to us again Col Snelling had them marched into the fort and took from them their British Marks that the hostages carried one had a large British Medal and the other a British Flag the [n] Col Snelling order[ed] a fire to be made in the middle of the parade ground and took the flag and burned it before all the Indians and then went up to the other hostage and cut the British Medal from his neck and ordered the two hostages confined in the guard house and ordered a few rations for the Indians that had come to deliver up the hostages and they went off verry much humbled and were peacible for about one year after/ the two hostages after having been confined about a month one morning at day break wanted to go out a sentinal accompan[ed] them out side the fort and the [y] got out some distance amongst the stumps and trees from the sentinel and started with a hoope the sentinal Francis Nason or Lessard fired at them and came near killing one of them/ the ball passed so close to his head that he fell to the ground/ the other Moz ah tunk ah or big Iron saw him fall and stop[p]ed and asked

him if he was hurt the other replied that he thought not well said Moz ah tunka we can get away up and be off for the sentinel is far be hind So they started again and went cl[e]ar I happened to be out at this time and saw the Indians when th[e]y started and all the operation until th[e]y were out of sight the alarm was given in the fort and all the officers and soldiers were out in pu[r]suit but Mr Indian was to[o] far off and the chase was soon given up the work on the fort had progressed on the fort so that most of the troops and some of the officers had got into new quarter[s] in the new fort in 1823 but our store was stil[l] at the old place at the mouth of the St. Peters. # about this time an order came that the sitlers [sic] for the troops should onley get 25 pr cent profit on their goods Mr. Devotion kicked at this and quit the business saying that 25 pr cent would not pay the losses otherwis[e] wastage and brokerage and wound his business with about eighty thousand dollars in paper money on the banks of Illinois and Missouri the pay master Capt Laerned it is supposed made a handsome profit out of this transaction. # He took the government drafts and sold them to these banks and took their paper and paid the troops with it (at this time there was no law compelling the pay master to pay in specie) # So the sutler had to take the paper money from the troops for his goods. the Indians had run away and another demand was made upon them for the actual murderer/ and after much delay and trouble the murderer was brought in and delivered up to col Snelling. Says the col I will see that you dont get away and put a large ball and chain to his foot and put him in the guard house and sent him down to the States for trial but no witness appeared against him and he was set at

liberty but never reached his native land Some think he was murdered some think he died of fatigue & hunger # during the two years that I was at the old fort I learnt [sic] to hunt and trap wolves I got a couple of traps made and about every other day I would catch a wolf/although they are a verry cunning animal I often outwitted them I som[e]times would cut a hole in the ice the exact size of the trap then I would put a piece of clean white paper over the trap then sprinkle snow over the paper then I would cut meat into small pieces and scatter [it] all over the trap and around 8 or 10 feet wide/so while the wolf would be running round picking up the small crumbs ~~sic~~ of meat would step into the trap stil[l] not with standing all this precaution some of them would spring the traps and eat the bate [sic] and get off clear another plan I had of hunting the wolves was to get into an old hous[e] or boat laying on the river bank and wait for them passing at night about nin[e] or ten oclock at night [] they would begin to come round and I shot several in this way/after night and every chance [] I could get to slip out from the store I would be off hunting and during the two years that I was at [the] fort I killed a large number [] of wild fowl, and wolves which was my greatest delight for to trap. during the last summer that I was in the sutlers store the young woman that I had seen on my way up the Mississippi a daughter of one of the chiefs came into the store frequently ~~sic~~ to trade their quill work of mockasins ~~sic~~ and many other little articles ~~sic~~ of their manufacture here [sic] appearance and conduct attracted my attention and in fact the young woman got aqua[i]nted with all the officers ladies of the fort and she

became verry much respected by all for he[r] good behaviour and decent appearance and cle[a]nley far exceeding the rest of the Ind[ia]n girls and she used to get many little presents from the ladies and gentlemen of the fort and I was not behind the rest in showing favors to the old chiefs daughter Still there was another young lass courting me and I was courting another finally the one that was after me and wanted me to marry her sent a messenger to me one day and asked me to marry her for she said she loved me verry much I made an excuse saying I was to[o] young to marry and gave a small present and the messenger went off and they never troubled me again but I fixed my mind upon the old chiefs daughter. The chiefs name is Kee. E. he. 1, or the man that flies / # the daughters name is Nag he no Wenah⁴ or spirit in the moon but as our[Naghenowenah] owner of the store had made up his mind to leave the country I did not make any advances to the young woman or give her any incouragement about mar[r]ying her but contin[u]ed to make them little presents from time to time until we left for St Louis which was in the fall of 1823 We loaded our little kell [sic] boat Mr Devotion Capt Gooding 2 or 3 discharged sold[i]ers our servant was about all the company on board the little keell [sic] boat and we started leaving all old friends behind # We had all became verry much attached to the officers and citizens and it appeared allmost[sic] like my first setting out from home to leave old acquaintances not knowing whether we should ever meet again and as [we] floated down the river we passed the tribe of the old chief on the island below the fort they were all out looking at us as we floated past all we could say was a good by and on we floated / # but we had hardly got half a mile and still in sight of the fort

[4. This word was re-spelled on the next line.]

when floating along with our mast up we run under a leaning tree hanging over the river a limb of the tree caught the top of our mast the boat swung round broad side to the current and careened over and we came near sinking but we got one of the men to climb the mast and cut the limb of the tree and away we floated again and after that we looked out for the old leaning trees on the banks and kept off from them and camped for the night below the mouth of the St. Croix [#] as usual Mr Devotion gave us a stingey ~~meal~~ meal as usual when we first came into the country ~~the~~ the next day we got into Lake pepin and came to that noted place the lovers leap the Indian tradition of which is that a young man had took a fancy to a young woman and induced ~~ed~~ his friends and relations to make up a purs[e] ~~and~~ and purchase the yound [sic] lady according to the Indian custom which purchase if acceded too [sic] by the parents is considered a marriage although the girl may not have known the man or have had but a slight acquai[n]tance with him yet the parents will or wish is to be obeyed and aristocrasy often brings or entails misery upon ma[n]y of the Indian families by the parents makeing ~~sic~~ marriages for the[i]r children where there is no love nor intimacey ~~with~~ with the bridal parties the yound [sic] man sent in his presents or the amount that his fri[e]nds had collect[ed] to pay for the girl he wanted the parents assented although the amount was small yet the young man was a great hunter and the old folks looked to a man that would give them aplenty of venison but the daughter had been looking forward to a young man that she loved and rebelled against her parents or said she wished to marry a man that she knew and loved but the parents persisted in selling their daughter for a good hunter the daughter remon-

strated and said the man has already a wife and I do not wish to live a life of poligamy particularly as I am the second and will have to be a slave to his first wife the parents said we are old and cannot hunt and this man will feed us all the daughter expostulated and said she did not wish to be made a slave to serve a marri[e]d man and wife for the sake of a hunter but the parents said you must obey this was in the evening on what is called point de Sauble or sand point opposite the fatal place /# the daughter saw there was no chance of saving herself from slavery for life to a man and woman she knew not nor loved therefore she resolved to free herself from misery by destroying herself and accordingly she made preperation for the work and long before the dawn of day she took the paddles of her parents and embarked into a can[o]le and crossed Lake pepin from sand point to the great perpendicular rock opposite the place where the Indians were encamped in the morning early the orator of the party or band that were traveling arose and comm[en]c[e]d his morning oration as follows # My friends we are now going on a hunting excursion it is time to be up and be off the lake is calm up up and make your sacrifice to the god of the waters that we may pass this lake in peace or that the waves will be calm and not stop us on our journey [] the old orator procla[i]med their duties to their gods in a loud voice and could be heard three miles upon the water and I believe I have often heard them three miles when th[e]y were speaking before raising their camp it is general custom for some of the camp to rise early in the morning and give directions for the day where to go and where to camp and where to hunt that day and where to assemble at night the old orator

said in midnight dream of last night a mountain ^[1] appeared before me and on the top of the mountain I saw a damsel attired in her best clothes and she looked forlorn and alone and appeared to be in trouble and I awoke arise and prepare for the days journey[/] all was up at the loud voice of the orator and cooking and preparations went on for the journey of the day after the repast and other little preparations of packing and loading the canoes the old woman^[sic] of whom we are speaking missed her paddles and looked round for them and began to mistrust something was wrong and ran down to the waters edge and found her canoe was gone and then commenced enquiring for her daughter whom she supposed ^[sic] had slept ^[sic] with some of her friends for the night owing to her sorrow or troubled state of mind[/] but no daughter was to be found and general search was made but nothing was to be found of the supposed bride and orders were given to march the mother with much reluctance raised her camp and started with the rest and the usual sacrifice or offering was cast upon the waters by the old warriors pipes of peace were filled and smoked to the deity ^[sic] and the god of the waters and the old orator commenced a song to the spirits of the waters and to his dream of the last night and saying I fear my dreams will bring sorrow to our hearts this day and they paddled slowly along on the lovely bosom of Lake pepin and as they approached the opposite shores of the lake the warriors raised a song of glee and joy and all at once an echo was heard from the high promontory opposite where the little fleet of canoes were passing down the lake the old herald-er raised his voice and said on that summit I saw a damsel in my dream I now hear her voice hark listen a breathless spell

came over the whole flotilia of the company /[#] about 100 canoes in company [1] a song was heard from the mountain top My parents I remember your kind care and sing to the gods that has kept us and the morning star that guides us in our earley rising and employment to guide you for the future, and I now free myself from misery and contention. What says the old orator is my dream coming to pass where from whence comes those sounds hark again he says lookook [sic] on that mount see, see, he says from whence comes that voice [sic] and song /[#] here a great consternation took place /[#] canoes all landed and a race [e] with the men to gain the summit to see who was the person that was responding to their songs below and the mother looked up and behold her daughter was ther[e] clothed in all the riches of Indian attire standing upon the precipice of about 100 feet the young men warriors strived for galantry to assend the mountain the young man althoug[h] a husband reached the place first and says to the girl what has brought you here. You, are the person that bought me a m[a]rr[i]ed man I never will live with She rooled [sic] her self in her blankets and made the awful leap and land[e]d a mass of broken bones and mutilated flesh

O what a[n]guish both to parents and lover (if there were any love) and a warning to forced marriages the body was taken up and deposed in the common way on a scaffold there to remain one year and after that to be interred in the ground [#] we went on down the lake and passed a point where some white men had been killed by the chippewas Not far from the foot of the lake the chippewas came ov[er] to war against the Sioux and finding none th[e]y turned in and killed three white that were on th[e]ir

way to fort Snelling Mr Findly and Mr Depuce and some othe[r]s that I do not recollect their names Troops had been ordered out to arrest the Chippewas but by the time the troops arrived there the Indians were no where and a short time after a boat full of soldiers was rob[b]led of their provisions by a party of Chippewas near the same place where the white men were killed a good specimen of bravery by our troops # We passed on down without any trouble and came to Prairie du chien my first landing place in the Mississippi I found no change in the old french settlement which is older than Philadelphia and only about fifty houses in 4 miles square this place derives its name from the oak timber being the exclusive growth of timber on the prairie black jack and scrub white oak. from here we worked on down to the mouth of fever river and rowed up to the traders establishment about 7 or 8 miles from the mouth of the river here we found 2 or 3 Indian trade[r]s Mr Bautelier, Van meter Mr Shull and some others in log cabbins 3 I think in all Mr devotion traded off some cloth for lead and loaded his little keell boat and we set out for St. Louis # We fl[o]ated along down to Rock island at the head of the rapids we pas[s]ed a sauk and fox village they were swim[m]ing horses although the wind was blowing strong and a heavy swell on the river the horses and canoemen appeared to enjoy the pleasure and crossed the great Mississippi a manomin word for great river the chippewa name is Kitchecepee The Sioux word is hah hah watte pah river of the falls in stead of laughing water a burlesque upon the indian language When we arrived at Rock island we were soon sarounded with the natives of the country Socks and foxes/ at the place was a government fort/ here we met some old acquaintances office[r]s and soldi[e]rs and passed a

pleasant evening with the milita[r]ly and floated of[f] the next morning for St Louis and here met with no inhabitants until we got near ~~○~~hanibal A man by the name of White was the first and we encamped and got some new milk and some fresh butter an articl[e] we had not seen for 2 years I had been troubled with disentary all the way down and I got a pint of new milk and boiled it and put peper in it and it cured me in on[e] night We sailed on down and passed Cla[r]kesville with one brickhous and 3 or 4 log cabbins

1853[?] We continued our journey on down to St Louis without any accident and landed in St Louis in the fall of 1853 here we spent the winter and the most of our time was spent in trying to get something for the bank notes that Mr Devotion had rece[i]ved in payment from the troops for the goods he had furnished them/# but all was a failure and Mr Devotion lost all his earnings in the soldier trade for 5 or 6 years and Mr B. F. Larned the pay master reaped all the benefits and the banks of course ^[had] a hand in the matter upon this failure Mr Devotion commenc[e]d drinking and his whole business went to destruction by the lawyears ~~○~~ which eat up every thing he had We passed the winter and commenced in the spring to make a garden at the plac[e] where [we] were living as it was rented for a year My brother had hired out and gone back to fort snelli[n]g to tend the sutlers store again

I was still living with Mr Devotion and he one morning ordered me to go to work in the garden so I went to work and helped nlow [sic] the garden and prepared the ground as well as I could/# then a lot of manure was haul[e]d on the ground and I was ordered to go and beat it up and spread it out over the ground and here commenced a trouble I told Mr Devotion that ^[if] I was hired to him to be a custer or a manure mast[e]r I would not attend to it /#

this made the old gentleman some what displeased that I would not be a dung carrier for him and would not speak to me for several days. finally he came out and said he had intend[ed] to do some thing for me but he did not know whether he should send me home or not I told him to act his pleasure but to rememb[er] the servic[e]s I had rendered him he went away and left me and went to his hired man and told him to go on with the garden[#]during this time my brother arrived in St Louis again the sutler business having passed into the hands of other persons. We passed the most part of the summ[e]r in hunti[n]g and looking over the country and we did not know hardly what to do My brother engaged to a clerk ship with Messrs Powel. [#]My old master Mr Devotion came to me one day and said I have had it in my [blank in MS.] mind to do something for you and if you will taake [sic] a lot of goods and go to Fort Snelling and trade with the Indians. I will get an assortment for you. this proposition met my views and I agreed at once to go to work and go into the trade rememb[er]ing the girl i left behind me. So Mr Devotion went to Messrs Bostwicks & co and purchased two thousand dollars worth of Indian goods on credit and turned them over to me and I baled them up and got our little keel boat ready again and hired four men and steers man who took charge of the boat and the boat men and in one week we were all ready and left in June 1823 for fort Snelling again My brother remain[e]d in St Louis with Messrs Powells and Mr Devotion kept batch with his servant.

befor[e] going any further with my trip up the Mississippi I must relate some little incidents that took place whilst I was in St Louis Mr Devotions man was an Irish Roman catholick he

had prevailed on me to go to the catholick church and I finally became more and more attached to their service and became a regular attendant & had any of them proposed the the [sic] thing to me I would of joined their church but no one said any thing to me on the subject of religion and I slip[p]ed from what I do not know about this time lent came on and our man was keeping lent and [I] enquired of him some thing about it and so I thought I would keep lent too and commenc[e]d on bread and water and stuck it out for 40 days on nothing but bread and water and got along just as well as those that lived on meat one day during lent Mr Devotion wanted me at table I told him that I did not wish to be at the table when he had company as I was keeping lent he commenc[e]d swearing and said I was a nusence to the house for keeping up such foolish acts but I stuck it out and when the lent was ended I commenc[e]d eating meat and other rich food but it made me verry sick for 2 or 3 days the suden change of diet. our servant allthough a strick romanist would indulge a little most every day and after dinner would take a verry sound nap, and one day whilst our man was fast~~o~~ asleep I got some pieces of rop[e] and tied his legs together and then took the rope up to a large nail in the joice over head then I tied his hands and made them fast and commenc[e]d pulling the rope on his legs and worked very easily until I got his legs prettey well drawn up and went of[f] quietly & left him there snorring away I went over to Mr Devotions room and after a while I went out to see if Mr Tom had woke up yet but he was not stir[r]ing yet so I stood a while on the plaza in front of the room where I had left my friend Tom in a few minutes I heard a rat[t]ling in the room where he was after a little open flies the door the moment Tom saw me he made for me swear[i]ng vengence I run for Mr Devotions room/#

he followed me to the door but durst not come in for he was afraid of the old master Mr Devotion and he stop[p]ed and went back to his room again but he kept me out for three days under the penalty of a good threshing if I ever put my foot in his room again Mr Devotion discovered there was someth[i]ng wrong and asked me what it was I told him what I had done he had quite a he[a]rty laugh over the scrap and told Tom he must make peace with me and after a while Tom saw me out and came along laughing and said he would let me off if [i] would promise not to pl[ay] any mor[e] pranks with him/[#] So we agre[e]d to drop & forget all and made friends again.

this summ[er] the water was verry high and working along with out little kell^[sic] we found it verry difficult to work with polls as we could find no bottom and had to pull along by the brush a good deal of the time we were three days getting above the mouth of the Missouri We had stoped for dinner and there appeared to be a great storm^{arising} we laid too and the storm did come with a vengeance and we were near being sunk by the storm the^[wind] blew down a large cotton wood tree which fell within ten feet of our boat which if it had struck us would sunk us all in one minute time/[#] the water was over the banks of the river in ma[n]y places and the water was up to the windows in the houses along the river banks/[#] the storm shook the trees so violently along the margin of the river that acres and acres of land and timber fell in to the river during and after the storm above and below us but we escaped unhurt/[#] after the storm we moved on slowly/[#] Some times we were 2 & 3 miles from the river in [or]der to find botton^[sic] so we could work with our polls one day we [had] good fair wind from the south and we sail[e]d about 50 miles that day and reach[ed] Clarkesvill one brick house and two or three wood buildings was all there was of

the town. there was a post office here I got the mail for the upper country and set out the next morning and worke[d] slowly along until we reached the head of the lower Rapids or rapide Desmoine. We stoped for dinner and we saw an old Indian village a little distance off and saw some flags flying in the air So we thought while the man were resting a little we would go and see the Indian town So we all went but one man to watch the boat but we found before we could get to the village we had a small stream to cross the men plunged in and over th[e]y went and I followed but I found the water was verry deep and I could not swim and if the pilot of the boat had not of caught me by the col[l]ar of the neck I should have drownd but he got me out save [safely?] and we hade quite a joke over the scrape of their getting me in over my head and getting a good ducking &c &c we went on up to the village on an eminanced^[?] on a beautiful large prairie we run in to to [sic] the houses from one to the other as the Indians were all off hunting all at once the me[n] comme[n]ced scratch- i[n]g worse & worse by and by th[e]y began to look at their legs and th[e]y found that th[e]y were covered with fleas and th[e]y commenc[e]d swear[i]ng in french and jumping and run[n]i[n]g off for the water and as soon as they gain[e]d the river in th[e]y plunged and rolled and washed until they drowned all the fleas

I staid a little while and examined a new grave the body was that of a man in a sitting posture a warrior partly decayed/# a large number of trinkets were left in the grave which was open so we could see all... this Indian we learned afterwards had been to war against the Sioux and got wounded with an arrow and got home and died a great deal of niciency^[?] had been displayed for

Indians in the burial of this warior I think ther[e] 3 or 4 verry pretty flags flying ove[r] the grave and there to be worn out by the winds the trinkets we could not get to see what th[e]y were made [of] some looked like silver some brass and wampun and beads of various kinds I would think at the prices the Indians had to p[a]y for those articles it had cost them \$150 for what th[e]y had left on the body and in the grave

We went back to the boat and pick[ed] up some round stones that appeared to be light and we broke some of them and found in side particles of stone in every variety of shapes and allmost a[s] transparent as thick pieces and in fact the inside looked verry much like glass but the out side was dark color and rough

the river here all comes together & is about 3/4 of a mile wide and in low water is shoal and large sharp rocks in the botton and boats have to be verry careful in desending in low water for the current is verry strong and boats frequently get stove^[?] on these rapids. We got under way and went all the rema[i]nde[r] of the day in our wet clothes the next day I was taken down with fever and ague and I had no medicine and I dragged along in misery until we got to rock island where there were some troops I got some medicine but it did not help me much by this time the water had fallen some so we could poll and cordell our little boat to considerable better advantage we crossed the rock Iland rapids in about a day and a half which was considered a good run for polls & cordell after we got over the hands were verry tired and stoped for dinner/ and afte[r] dinner some of them went to sleep and one of the french men said he would like to play a trick on one of the b[o]lys that was asleep but was a little dumpish otherwise simple and told some of those that were awake if they would keep the

fellow from hurting him when he should find it out he would play the most laughable trick on him that th[e]y ever saw So all the promises imaginable were made that th[e]y would assist each other/ very well you will see some fun says the the [sic] french man So the man that th[e]y were to play upon lay broad on his back with arms and hands both spread out the mischief maker unbuttoned his pants and went and eased himself in the sleeping ma[n]'s right hand and hastily buttoned up Now says he all pretend to be asleep as soon as I am done So he pulled a hair from his head and laid it across the sleeping mans nose and crawled off and all was apparently asleep but like fox with eye open it wasent long before the hair began to make the sleeping mans nose itch and thinking it was a fly or some insect he brought his right hand over on to his nose and I guess there was a hub bub/ in a moment all was routed and a race first after one then another some that had been asleep did not know what to make of it as th[e]y did not know what had been done they thought the fellow was crazy When he found he could [not?] catch them he commen[ce]d with his tongue and as soon as th[e]y all understood the joke they all joined in the sport Nobody knew nothing about it nobody saw a[n]y thing he would look at his hand then chase one again then another so finaley he found he could make nothi[n]g of them and went and washed but he swore vengeance on the perpetrator if ever he found him out

the time came for starting and all was ordered on board but there was not much fun the rem[a]inder [sic] pa[r]t of the day in fact the fellow did not get over it for a week but took good care to get on to the boat when he went to sleep in the day time

We worked and toiled in the hot sun from morning til[1]

night ~~so~~ so warm that the mens arms would have new sun blisters on their arms every few days and I had the ague which was no comforter to me during the hot weather finally we got to Prairie Du chien/# here I got some more medicine and I took two passengers on board one by the name of B. F. Baker going up to teach school at Fort Snelling he was sick and had the ague the other was a Mr Joel Whitney from green bay with a few goods and groc[e]ris to sell at Fort Snelling We moved off slowly two of us shaking with the ague every other day/# It appears to me that we used half a bushel of barks but did not appear to help us in the least Mr Whitney had some good brandy on board but he would not tap it said he was afraid the men would get at it but this was a mere excuse for the men had a plenty of whisky and were not in want the real thing that he was afraid of was that we would not give him enough for it and as we learnt afterwards he was the greatest skin flint that ever went up the Mississippi finalley after toiling 55 days in the hot sun and sick with ague we arrived at Fort some time in august 1823

I have wr[i]tten this to show the character of the french who are allways replete with tricks and levity & as it came into my mind in my first voyage up the Mississippi on the ice with a french train I will tell another of the[i]r tricks an old frenchman was driving a team behind he called to one that was driving a team a little distance before him and told him he wanted a chew of tobacco/# the one ahead said yes in a few minutes and I will let it fall in the snow and you can pick it up verry well said the old man and on we went after while we came to some hores manure the one ahead picked up some and halloed to the old man behind and told him there was some tobacco for him and let a piece fall in the snow/# the old man watched verry careful and came to the place and picked up what he thought was his tobacco it was all covered with snow

so that he did not discover what it was at first and came near getting it into his mouth but stoping to brush the snow off a little discovered that it was not tobacco for it all fell to pieces when he commen[ce]d brushing the snow off the old fellow commenc[e]d scolding and swearing at the other for cheating him in such a dirty way this set the whole crowd to laughing and shouting as th[e]y knew nothing of the affair until the old man began to rage this made him worse and the fellow pulled his blankets of[f] the sleigh and was for turning back they all gathered around him and told him he would perish if he attempted to go back alone. Some threatened him if he attempted to go back th[e]y would tie him on the sleigh but the old man was pretty resolute and held off for some time finally one of the party gave the old man a good plug of tobacco this pacified him a little and he agreed to go on and took his team again.

as soon as I arrived at St Peters or Fort Snelling I comm[en]-ced building my winter quarte[r]s and trading house and kept my boat hands one week for that purpose and we got the body of a house up and part of the roof on and I had to let my boats crew go back so I purchased a wood canoe of the Indians gave them provisions for the voyage down to St Louis I hunted a boat and hired another french man and went to work and finished my house the best we could timbe[r] was verry scarce and we had a poor place for to shed rain the Indians cam[e] in and commenc[e]d trad[e] in small things as the furs were not good or seasonable

One day an Indian came[] to me and said he wanted to get something and I took him down to the boat where I stil[l] lived and asked him what he wanted he said he wanted powder I asked where the pay was he said he wanted a credit I told him I

could not give credit. he hung round for some time and asked for som[e]thing else I refused after a while he pulled out his knife and commenc[e]d rolling it about on his lap and asked for powder again I refused and got up & took my gun down and laid it across my lap Now says I to myself I will be ready for you if you do try to injure me. So the fellow hung about for some time and kept asking for powder but I kept refusing finalley he found he could not frighten me in to measures and then commen[ce]d coaxing me and showed me his gun and said he [had]not one load of powder/# I looked at his gun and found that it was not loaded and it is probably well for me that it was not for the Indian was a great rascall and might have taken some advantage of me as I was entirely alone however I stuck to my gun and finally the fellow went off mad enough and I was glad to see his back for he had kept me full two hours in the little cabin of my boat working and trying to make me give him something

I lived here with my french man until october when my brother arrived from St^t Louis by this time some of the furs began to get good and some trade commenced and most every day we had a visit from the Fort from the officers Most of them were young men and fond of sport

My brother had a fine pair of large dueling pistols We used to spend a goodeal of our time in shooti[n]g at a mark^{*} and my brother and myself we got perfect with the pistol that we used to hold a candle for each other to shoot at in the house in the night/# this used to alarm the Indians verry much to see us holding a piece of candle about six inches long for each other to shoot at we used to snuff the candle every shot one time we were shooting and a little cat jumped up on to my brothers shoulder just as I

fired th[e] ball made the tallow fly about some and some of it struck the cat in the face and sent hur a whirling and squalling/# this pleased the Indians greatly to see the little cat cut up so antick from the effects of the tallow striking hur in the face no doubt it made the kittens face smart som[e] as its face was o[n]ley about six inches from where the ball struck^{5.} # and riding about was about all we done that winter except to tend to the Indian trade which did not take a quarter of my time Now and then I would take an excurs[i]on or a trip around amongst the Indians and once in a while the girle I left behind me called into see me and trade a little and get a little present and be off again in a short time/# one time I offered hur a scarlet blanket for a kiss but it was no go and off she went home

When the spring came my brother^[5] got our furs together and made packs of them and pressed them as well as we could and my brothe[r] started for S^t Louis with them before my brother left for S^t Louis we received a letter stating that Mr Louis Devotion our old master was de[a]d it appears after I left he took to drinking verry hard on account of his losses which was considerable about 40 or 50 thousand dollollars [sic] ^{was}

as I have related the troops had been paid off in in [sic] Illinois and Missouri mon[e]y and the banks failed and when Mr Devotion found he was agoing to loose all it broke him down and gave up to hard drink and died the fall after I left him

My brother went down and paid for the goods that I took for the trade when my brother went down he had some discharged soldiers to row his boat for him and th[e]y found he had some money with him and th[e]y form[e]d a plan to rob him he hapened

[5. The narrative from the asterisk on page 52 to this point was written on a separate sheet.]

to overhear them and hapend so that they were not far from a town and he landed and discharged them and got another crew and got down without any trouble Mr Devotion was dead and the house that had furnished us with goods had failed and we could get no Indian goods and my brother could not make up his mind what to do

about this time one Kenneth McKenzie from Red river of the North came to St Louis and started up a trading company and my brother joined them and came up with them I had got tired of waiting at fort Snelling and went down to Prairie Duchien to see if [I] could get any news of my brother or what he was doing I stoped with Judge Lockwood an old acqua[i]ntance of mine after waiting some two weeks my brother arrived with Mr McKenzie with a large keel boat loaded with goods and provisions for the trade and some 30 men and clerks to carry on the trade/[#]also they had sent a strong force up the Missouri to carry on the trade and a company was formed called the columbia Fur company and a strong opposition was got up against the american Fur company by Mr McKenzies efforts. I embarked with the company and we left Prairie duchien and the hands worked hard early and late as the season was getting late to get the goods in the Indian contery at night when the boat would stop the clerks would [go] to the skift and go out fishing so that most ev[e]ry day we would have fresh fish with our salt pork after toiling hard for 8 or ten day[s] we reached Buf Slew a small stream coming in from the east bank of the Mississippi so named from them having a range there for bufalow in times of the oldest Indians remembrance this place is about 6 miles below what is called the grand encampment on the west bank of the Mississippi this place derived its name from the trader[s] and

Indians camping there to hunt a day or so when going up or down the river as there were then great quantities of game there then when we started from Bufalow Slew we got a fair wind and hoisted sail the boat had a verry large sail and we sailed all that day and passed the Saind croux [sic] river a distance of about 60 miles

We had a pet bear on board the boat and we used to have a great deal of sport playing with bears this day we were sailing along verry fineley We had on board Doctor Purcelle physician for the Fort Snelling he was out and playing with the bear the bear jumped at him the doctor ran back in doing so his heel caught on a cleet on the running board of the boat and [he] fell backward into the river the Doctor overboard I holle[d] the cook was on deck an old black man he jumped down on to the running board and in he went and swam down to the Doctor and told him to lay his hand onto his shoulder and hold on until the boat came he done as directed but the boat being great headway had left them some ways behind before the sail could be taken down and her head way stoped finally the skift was got loose and sent after them the old black man kept swiming all the time with Doctor resting one arm on his shoulder until the skift came to them and took them in and got them all safe on the boat the Doctor went on his back he had on a large soldier coat and as he fell backward it spread out on the water and held the doctor square on his back until the black man swam to him and saved his life

the next day we had a fair wind again and sailed up as far as carvers cave without any more accidents here we got a canoe

and four or five of us got in and paddled up to fort Snelling with the mail we got in late after ten oclock th[ely] were most of them in bed but th[ely] old friends were glad to see us and get the mail I went up to my old place that I left in charge of a french mand [sic] I ordered him to cut me some timber for anothe[r] house^[sic] whilst I was gone and when I cam[e] back found a house partly up at a place called lands End about half a mile above my first winte[r]ing ground. the b[ol]at cam[e] up the next day and and I bought of the company 500\$ worth of goods on credit and they the Columbia Fur company went on up the Minnesota in small boats and carts for the winter trade with the Indians/# I went on finished my house and fixed it pretty comfortable for the winter and comme[n]ce[d] giving some credit to the Indians but the few goods that I had did not last long and in a few days one Alexis Bailly a cou^[?]tan halfbreed a trader from P. Duchien came along with some goods and I entered into copartnership with him for the winter trade and got some more goods

by this time the girl I left behind me had come up to see me but she only stoped a few minut[e]s and was off again I began to think about getting married after the Indian man[n]er so I took ten blankets one gun and 5 gallons of whiskey and a horse and went to the old chiefs lodge and laid them down and told the old people my errant and went off home the third day I received word that my gift had been accepted but the girl was bashful and did not like the idea of marrying and I must wait until they could get the girl reconciled to their wishes for hur to marry me/# in a few days they moved their tent up and camped near my house and I was ten [sic] after they moved to my place befor[e] I could get my wife a[s] she was then timid at last through much

entreaty of the parents she came for to be my wife or companion as long as I choosed to live with hur little did I think at that time I should [live] with hur until old age

We passed the winter verry comfortably together the old chife lived in his tent nearby us all winter I fed and clothed them all winter in the spring my partne[r] cam[e] down from the winter trade and my brother and myself had much trouble in settling up our affairs finally under fair promises we let him tak[e] all the furs and that was the last of all the trade with our partner/# he went off and made up accounts that far over came mine in a parcel of trash that he had left me to sell and would take them back brot them as a charge and an offset against my account and brot us in debt about 130\$

the columbia fur compa[nly] came along and we gave them orders on Mr Bailly he showed his accounts and they soon saw that we were taken in and they [E] could not get any thing of Mr Bailly My brother went to St Louis with the compnyes boat they had a pretty good trade in the Minnesota they made rising of 400 pack of furs and robes this made the american fur company look with big eyes [from] When they [saw] this large lot of furs taken [from] their pockets/# the company went to S^t Louis and got a new supply of goods and coming back as they were about to leave prairie Duchien a warrant was sent by Mr Bailey our former [E] partner to take my brother for debt here they like have had a fight the whole boats crew joined in to help keep the sheriff off from serving his warrant on brother finally friends interfered and my brother give his note for the amount and they left for Fort Snelling

I passed the sum[m]ler do[i]ng nothing finally the compan[i]es boat arrived and we had to made [sic] some new arrangements I had no

goods and could not get any and what was to be done I[t] was proposed to me to join the company on certain conditions that was I was to go to the chippewa country with an outfit for to trade I had no other alternative and had to accept and the arrangement was made and I got my outfit ready also another outfit had been started for Red lak[e] in charge of Mr B. F. Baker the gentleman that came up with me in the keel boat when we both had the ague but the worst of all what was I to do with my wife of course she did not like the project but said she could live with her parents this relieved my mind some to think she would be in a place where [she] would be at home/ So I made arrangements for her by leaving her a plenty of clothing and oth[er] things to purchase fresh meat or game from the Indians as she might want and we parted and off we went in our bark canoes

Mr Peter Quinn was my interpreter the first day [we] went to the falls here we had to take our canoes out and carry them round the falls by hand two men took up a large bark canoe and carri[e]d it half way then laid down and rested then picked it up and carried to the upper landing a distance of half a mile the way the canoe is carried it ^[sic] ~~rised~~ ^{ris} up to the shoulder and the men have a little cord that th[ey] hold in the left hand attached to the canoe by this cord the canoe is held from to the shoulder and the bales of goods weigh about one hundred pounds these packages are carr[ie]d with a head strap tied round the bales and the strap ove[r] the head these they carry from one end of the portage to the other one half mile this work generally takes one day/ So at night we were all over and ready for to start in the morning the water was

very low and we made slow progress we broke our canoe on the rocks frequently then would have to stop and repair by ~~one~~ patch[i]ng and pitch[i]ng with gum finalley we got froze up at a place called Prairie Piercie or a hole in the prairie named from a place having been worn out by the water in the bank on the east side of the river here wintered ~~here~~ we built a log house out of small pines of which there were plenty and where fort Ripley is now built about 100 miles from Fort Snelling this is the first pine the [sic] found in a body near the river We found that we were only on the East and Southern borders of the Chippewa hunting @ground but we had not been there long before some Indians cam[e] in and verry glad to see us they said their old traders were so verry hard on them th[e]y could hardly live they could not get am[m]unition enough to kill game to live on I went to work and give them a pretty liberal supply and they started out hunting all well pleased and by night we had bear and 2 or three deer and you may be assured we all had a great feast that night for we had been living verry poorly for several days working in the cold water and ice getting our worn out canoes along/[#] the Indians began to come in and some trade was done and hired an old chief to take some goods and go and trade with Indians far above up the crowing river he went off and returned in about 2 weeks with a good lot of furs I outfitted him again by this time my goods began to get low however I took some wampun a few goods and some silver work and a little outfit for the Sioux country and I started with one man and a chippewa Indian that had been amongst the sioux a long time and could speak a considerable of the Sioux language the Sioux and chippewas being at war I took this man as a guide and knowi[n]g the Indians knew him a gre[at] many of then [sic] I thought it

would be safe to take him with me we made up our pack and left the interpreter and one man in charge and started for the Sioux camp where we did not know We traveled two days through a dense forest of thick pine one whole d[aly] cross[e]d quite a stream with our mockasins on and snow about 4 inches deep we travel[e]d the balance of the day with wet feet but did not suff[e]r from cold as we had large pieces of blanket inside of our mockasins at sundown we camped made a good fire eat our lunch dri[e]d our mockasins and laid down and went to sleep verry soon as we were verry tired caried [sic] our packs and wet # at day break we started again and just at night we got out of the timbe[r] this day it rained some and thundered about the middle of december we camped and sleped sound from fatigue the nex[t] morning we started down Sauk river/# the Indian went out hunting for elk and told us to [go] on down to a point that he would be there so [we] went on as we supposed to the place he pointed out and waited and wai]ted for our guide but could [not] hear nor see any thing of him. We had struck the Sauk river too high up we were two days march from the Mississippi/# We waited until we got out of all patience and start[e]d on down the river we did not know what to do we were in a countery that we knew nothing and where to go we knew not here we were in a quandry but we kept on our journey down the Sauk river about two oclock our guide came too us much too our joy as we were relieved from any further anxiety about the rout that we were to travel/# the Indian said we had missed the point other wis[e] had not reached it we had not gone far enough he said he had been to the place that he pointed out some distance below and not finding us there supposed we had gon[e] on down the river and started on after us