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Philander Prescott reminiscences and related papers, undated and 1861?

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an[d] traveled on until he had got tired and not find[i]ng us knew
 that we could not get far ahe[a]d of him and started back in search
 of us the rain the day before had take[n] the snow nearly all off
 in the prairie and our tracks did not show was one cause why we
 did not find each other sooner we went on until night and camped
 on Sauk river a stream about 30 yards wide but shoul in the summer~~z~~
 our food had verry nearly given out so we had but little for our
 supper and breakfast and ^[no] signs of aney Sioux the next morni[n]g
 we followed on down the river about ten oclock we heard guns of
 south of us this we knew to be the Sioux and turned our course
 in their direction shortly after we started in the firing that
 we heard a buck sprang up the [guide] had his gun down in [a] moment
 although it had a cover on it and fired as the deer ran from him
 as he fired the deer tumbled heels over he[a]d but was not quite
 [dead] the indian put a small l[o]ad in his gun and finished him~~##~~
 the indian tu[r]ned the deer over and said he had kill[e]d the deer
 without making a hole in the skin how can that be said I w[h]y
 cent you account for it No I said well said the Indian the ball
 went straight into the back side throug[h] the entrails and lodged
 in his shoulder the Indian hastily took off the skin and a con-
 siderable quantity of the meat with it and shouldered it and we went
 on expecting to meet with some Indians but we travelled and travel[e]d
 and traveled until we got tired and sat down to rest We started
 again and travel[e]d until dark and found no Indians that not so
 we had a good roast of our venison and went [to] sleep not d[r]eaming
 of the trouble that we were to meet the next day We started early
 in the morning and traveled til about nine oclock all at once we
 heard a gun not [far] from us we gave hoop and in a few minut[e]s

an Indian came^[7] run[n]ing up to us and commenc^[e]d hollow[in]g and firing his gun directly anoth^[e]r came and comm^[en]ced fir[i]ng his gun and so on and in about half an hour we had about one hundred wild Susseton and wahpaten Indians and the wildest kind of confusion prevailed for about half an hour Some were for killing us th^[e]ly said we were come as spies from the Chippewas to get them killed &c &c I denied all their assertions and told them I come to trade with them but th^[e]ly would not listen atal and kept on with their threats th^[e]ly stole my cap from me took Indi^[a]ns meat from him and gun and took ^[7]men's gun and cap from him and now threaten^[e]d to take my goods Som^[e] of the old men interfeard saying this one of our trad^[e]rs of the same company that we have at Lac quiparle with us I told them if th^[e]ly did not stop their mischi^[e]lf I should report their conduct to the officer at the fort they stil^[l] were sur^[?]ley^[?] and two or three times some of them cock the^[i]lr guns to com^[m]ence the work of murder We stood and never let on or notic^[e]d their murd^[e]rous intent the old men interfeard and stop^[p]led the young^[men] from killing us but I assure you it was [a] close run th^[e]ly held council and decided to take us into camp to the chief/Limping Devil this name he deriv^[e]d from hav^[i]ng greated the trad^[e]rs and verry badly the Fox and Sauk Indians had come to war and found a camp of Indians encamped on the red wood river the few on a small camp that was at some distance from the ma^[i]n body of them and killed nea^[r]ly all of them and made off with^out getting injured the ma^[i]n camp started in pu^[r]suit the next morni^[n]g th^[e]ly traveled all day and all night and the next morni^[n]g about ten oclock came in sight of the hindmost ones the sioux had to h^[o]ld back for some time to wait for the foot men to come up as the horse

men were some distance in advance finally a part of them got up and the Sioux made the attack the Fox and Socks halted and the Sioux rushed right onto them and attacked them with lance and war clubs and by the time the hindmost of the Sioux got up the Sioux had killed 13 of the Fox & Socks and the foremost ones had fled by this time/[#]the[y] said th[e]y were completely tired out and did not follow them any further there were no Sioux killed but several wounded amongst those were this Limping Devil was wounded in the knee this gave him the nam[e] of limping devil he was a brave but awful wicked man, and as we moved off for the India[n] camp this man came out on horse back to meet us as he was still lame/[#]he took me by the hand and then my guide and my man and bade us proceede on to his camp the Indians were all waiting expecting the chief would give orders to have us all killed but no such order came and we went safe into camp No doubt it must have been the interposition of God that subdued this wicked chiefs heart for the time that our lives might be spar[e]d When we got into camp the chief told his brother to take me to his lodge and the man went to anoth[er] lodge and the Indian guide to anoth[er] place/[#]So we were all seperated

a council was called and we were all called in and I was told if I would tell the truth thus that we coulde go home again but if I lied we could not go they wanted to know what I had come for/[#]I told them I had come to trade but I had got out of the rout that I had intended to go and had fallen in with them instead of the Indians that I wanted to see I told them the Indians that I was in search of was the menda Wakentens that had left St Peters after I did where I expect[e]d to meet my wife are you marri[e]d th[e]y

said yes I said to whom to Kee. E. he, E's daughter at this time an Indian Black Tom Hawk of the lower bands came in and confirmed my statement and said these Indians are afraid you have come to find where th[e]y are so the chippewas can come and kill/# they kept me there until about midnight talking and question[ing] me as to my resid[e]nce and made [me] promise to come back and bring them some powder and balls and finally broke up and let me trade the few goods I had which was done in about an hours time

the chiefs brother whilest I was tradi[n]g stole one of the otters that I had trade and sold it to me for wampun I could not say a[n]ly thing for the least thing woul[d] have started a fuss and we would have been killed so I said noth[i]ng but give him the wampun and gather[e]d up my furs as quick as possible and ti[e]d them up and sat down on them they kept me a prisoner for three days and we had [to] move with them in camp^[?] every day finally the 4th day in the morning the chief gave us an escort of 20 braves mostly old men to accompany us one half day journey so th[e]y conducted us on our road until about noon and halted and sat down and had a smoke together and shook hands and we seperated and I will assure we traveled hard the rema[i]nd[e]r of the day and got on to the Mississippi and campe[d] all most tired to death we had trav[e]ll[e]d so hard to get out of the reach of those hateful creatures/# in the morni[n]g we were off by light without any food/# we travel[e]d all day and at night camped by Pikes rapids a place where general Pike wintered when exploring the Mississippi river/# in the night it commen[ce]d snowing and snowed all day we shouldered our packs at daylight and on trudged through the snow storm this was the third day we had been without food I ask

my man and Indian what they would choose providing they could have their wish for break fast the frenchman a good drink of brandy the Indian said a good loaf of bread and a good cup of tea or coffee I told the Indian he was goodeal of my opinion stil I would[like] a good piece of fat bear meat O yes said the Indian that would make the belley and hair both slick we traveled on allmost woried out through the snow storm and about 3 o c P. M we arrived home once more a place I once thought I should never see again

When I was first taken prisoner by the Sioux the Chippewas came in in large numbers to hear the neaws and and they said it was one of the gre[a]test wonders in the world that we were not all killed the mother of the Indian was along with them She came to see hur son and told me plainly that if hur son had been killed she would have killed me on my return without him so it was a providential escape all round I staid at home and recruited strength a little and fixed up for anothe[r] trip for Fort Snelling as I was entirely out of goods there were 3 chiefs that wished to go and 4 other Indians myself and one man made the party 9 in all We all got good snow shoes made and while we were getting ready one Mr W^m Aitkin a trader from Sandy lake came doown [sic] and stop[p]ed in an old partly broken down trading house about half a mile above me on an Island he invited me to call over and see him so I went with my interpreter and made him a visit and and [sic] gave him an invitation to visit me So he called in and we talked over the trade and some other matturs a short time and Mr Aitkin left but invited me to visit him at Sandy lake I told him I probably would after I came back from Fort Snelling.

by this time I had about 20 packs of furs and peltry I showed

them to Mr. A he looke[d] with astonishment and said those are mine by rights for all these Indians have credit of me I said I had paid for them I believed th[ey] were mine Now yrs [yours?] he said and I will watch you after this and so he did keep three or 4 men amongst the Indians all the time watchi[n]g them and as fast as they would kill skins they would take them from the Indians but the Indians always would find some chances to hide a bear skin or some other furs and bring them to me finally we got ready and started for St. Peters or Fort Snelling on snow shoes # the first day I got along verry well for a new beginner we expected to camp with some Indians the first nigh[t] from Mill lake or Rum river but we got disappointed and it was bad business for us as we had take[n] no provisions with us expecting to get a supply from the Indians but they were gone and what to do we hardly knew So two good walkers said they would go in search of them

the sun was about two hours high when th[ey] started and I with the baland [sic] of the company rema[i]ned in the old camp without any supper We built up a good fire and laid down and took a sleep We slept until about nine oc We got up and made a fire and warm[e]d up but no Indians came back We waited and waited at last they came about midnight We enquired what had kept them so long the[y] said th[ey] had follow[e]d the trail of the Indians which had taken them a long ways round and to Mill lake which they said was not far off to go straight and that that [sic] there was a trail that th[ey] cam[e] in that we could go in two hours but th[ey] could get no provisions What to do again was a subject to be considered about getting provisions for


the journ[e]ly[#] the old chiefes[#] [said] We could go by Mill lake and Snake river and by so doing find Indian camps all along and sleep with them nights and if th[e]y have any food th[e]y will feed us for the night We were all anxious to go to Fort Snelling all the journ[e]ly by this rout was long and some what doubtful about getting provisions I consented to go and we started off in the night about hal[f]past nine but I found the snow shoes had strained the cords of my instep verry much and it was with much difficulty that I could keep up however I hobbled along and finally we got in to Mill Lack about mid night and an an [sic] old French man by the name of Leroy was trading ther[e] for Mr. W^m. Aitken the old man got us some rice made or gathered by the Indians and had it cooked[#] So we had some warm rice and a little sugar with it which made us a verry good supper as we were verry hungry having traveled all day and part of the night without eating the old man said they had to live poor as the trade would not afford any great expense and th[e]y had mostly to live on fish and rice. he saide they only got flour about once a week as for pork th[e]y never thought of such a thing this old ma[n]s daughter was married to Mr Aitkin as his second wife Mr A was expected there that night but he did not come I wish he had for I could of got some provisions of him but the old man was afraid of his master and dared not furnish us any as we were opposition trade[r]s and the custom in this country starve out run out and drive out every opposition either by fair or foul means that th[e]y possibly can in the morning the morning [sic] the old french man gave us anoth[e]r dish of rice. this wild rice is verry similar to our white rice as to nutriment but is quite dark couler [color?] its nutriment powers is quite feeble and does not give much strength to the body[#] in

the people of this country have to eat it ~~o~~ which is simply boiled in water. When they can get some greas[e] to put in it it helps to give nutriment. Also sugar is used with it which makes it palatable. A person can eat a quart aft[er] it is cooked and in two hours after will be as hungry as ever. The Indians had been round to the camps and gather[ed] a little rice that had been parched which is verry good to eat when travelling. It prevents thirst and relieves the appetite for a little while.

We started earley in the morning for Snake river. We had a track most of the day. We trav[el]led the whole day and onley stoped once that was about 2.00 to eat a mouthful of wild rice and on we went, and traveled until dusk when we came [to] a trading post. The traders name was Johnson. This was the hardest days travel that we had all the journey. The distance I do not know but I think it must be all of 40 or 50 miles. Mr Johnson welcomed into [house] his and gave us such as he had & that was wild rice simply boiled in water. We made our repast but we had been eating rice so long without seasoning that we did not relish it verry well. But still we had to eat some. Mr Johnson said there was no game about where [they] lived and th[ey] seldom ever had meat. Once in a while th[ey] got a little grease from the Indians but had to pay a great price for it. Mr Johnson said he came into the country from Lake Superior by the way of lakes and small rivers in bark canoes. I think he said th[ey] had near one hundred portages to make before he reached his trading post. He said the whole trade was worth only about two thousand dollars a year and it hardley paid the trouble and expense but as he was in the trade he did not know what to do for a living onley to follow up the trade. We had

[a] good large chim[ne]y fire and and [sic] verry warm room so we laid down to rest/[#] but I was so tired that I did not rest for a long time the Indians went [to] sleep in a few minutes and did not wake until near morning When we awoke Mr Johnson had [a] large kettle^oful of rice boil[e]d in water as usual We eat as much as we could Mr Johnson made many apologies for the poor food he had to offer and when we started he gave us a little to carry with us/[#] in the ~~started~~ morning we started earley and traveled through pine forests all the day as we had done the day before and some of the handsomest pines that[we]had seen in the country we traveled all day without eating again and part [of] the time on snow shoes

just as the sun was setting we came to an Indian camp and stoped for the night we went into the[i]r tents and sat down/[#] the Indians told us they were starving and could not give us any thing to eat the tents which were principally mad[e] of bark from the birch tree or rushes from the ponds and lakes, were open and cold all that I saw about the camp was one little pike fish in the eatable way the woman cooked it in a small kettle and eat it/[#] we laid down but did not rest much being very cold and hungry in the morn[i]ng we started on our snow shoes without supper or breakfast and traveled until about noon When the Indians halted and took out their little bag of rice we all eat a [li]ttle and started on through swamps and humocks and a most awful country to travel on snow shoes Sometimes I would get a trip and my snow shoes would throw me ten feet ahead into the snow I would plunge by the time I would get up the Indians would be some distance ahead of me the[n] I woul[d] have to work and run and worrey myself most to death to catch up again for I hated to give out and tell them to wait for me

/# So we worked on until night but I was awful tired the Indians made a good fire and we sat down and dried our snow shoes and mockasins the[y] pulled out the balance of the rice and we eat it which was but a few mo[u]thfuls apeace  however we had a better camp than we had when we camped with the India[ns] the night before for we could make a good large fire and warm up well which is a great thing in traveling to get warm and dry at night then you can sleep and you will feel much better for traveling in the morning We started earley on our snow shoes about noon we came to oak openings and our snow shoes did not trip us up so often as ther[e] was not so much under brush at night we camped in the oak openings Whilst the Indians were hunting about for wood for the nigh[t] one of them found a de[ad] deer and cried out good luck what is it we all sung out a deer he said the Indians all give a hoop of joy and went too see the deer had been dead for a long time but was whole and froze and covered with snow /# the Indians dug it out and got it up to the fire and thawed it a little and got the hide off and chop[p]ed it up. the meat was fairly black th[e]y had a small kettle along th[e]y melted snow and filled the[i]r kettle and boiled the meat but, oh, what an awful smell came out when the meat got hot but the Indians stuck too it and cooked it and eat hearty of it. I tried to eat some but as hungry as I was I could not eat the meat It was so old and smelt so bad /# from this point by hard walking on our snow shoes we got into fort Snelling the col. command[i]ng was about the first that I met as I went into the Fort he was quite surprised to see me and made some inquiri[e]s where I was from &c &c

/# finally I told him I was verry hungry Why have you been starving/#
 I told him we had been nine days living on a little wild rice he
 told me to come in to his quarters he told his wife Mrs Snelling
 one of the most accomplished and charitable ladies of the fort at
 that time in a few moments she brought me a large bowl of soup
 but none but a hungry person could tell how good it tasted With
 many thanks I left them and went on to our trading post 2 miles
 above the fort where Mr Lamont was in charge all were glad to
 see us they soon had som[e] food cooked for us and we retired to
 rest the next morning we all felt verry tired stiff and sore /#
 but in a day or two we all felt well again

I had not been here but two days when my wife arrived She
 had been out with the Indians on a hunt and it was this camp that
 I was in wearch of when we got lost and fell in with the Sussetons
 and missed find[i]ng my wif[e] as I expected after they had put
 up their tents I went to see them in their lodges or tents My
 wife presented me with a fine boy born while th[e]y were on the
 hunt in december 1824 I staid with them about a week

About this time an old Susseton chief arrived from the upper
 country at Mr Lamonts Mr L had marr[i]ed his daughter and the
 old chief had come down to see them /# also went to the Fort to see
 the commanding officer I went along to interpret We were taken
 into the col office and in a few minutes the col cam[e] in and
 spoke to the old chife he got up and shook hands with the col
 and th[e]y entered into some common conversation about business
 of the times &c finally Col Snelling asked the chief if he knew
 any thing about some cattle that had been killed by the Sioux
 Indians the sum[me]r before the chief said that some white people

were driving a drove of cattle through the Indian country going north to the British Settlement on Red river and the Indians had demanded pay of the white men to let them pass without pay/[#] and the Indians held a council amongst the Braves and th[e]y agreed to go and take pay themselves by killing 2 or three cattle. So off the band started/[#] Some on horseback some on foot hooping and hallowing and as soon as the driver saw the Indians they cattle started upon a run and the Indians after them some on horse some on foot and commen[ce]d firing at the cattle th[e]y killed several and wounded several more and a part th[e]y could not overtake and run wild into the prairie the drivur turned about and went home and lost their whole drove the col asked the chief why he did not stop them the old man said when hungry Indians see buffalo or beef before them th[e]y are like a parsel of hungry wolves and cannot be made to listen

Well said col Snelling I am going to have some kind of satisfaction for this kind of conduct you are not a going to destroy whole dr[o]ves of cattle that are passing peac[a]bly through your country the old chief began to smell the rat and made all sorts of excuses but col Snelling told him that excuses came to[o] late and that he should put him in prison and sent for a guard of soldiers they came and the col told the old chief he must go with the soldiers he rose and went the col told him if he attempted to run away from the soldiers they would shoot him the old chief said nothing but went qui[e]tly along to the guard house

the sun was not [more] than an hour high about half an hour after Lieut Camp came in and said that the Indian was shot We all ran out to see and found that the old man had made an excus[e]

to go out and got a little in advance of the sentinal and started on a run. the sentinal fired and brought the old man down the old man had heard of others escaping and thought he could do the same but he got caught this time the sentinal broke the old mans arm and fractured the whole bone from the elbow to within about 2 inches of the should[er] and the ball went through and struck his side and hit a rib and run round the rib to the pit of the stomach skin deep and there lodged between the skin and the bone and the arm had to be amputated but the su[r]geon Doct Purcell was dead So the sergeant of the Hospital undertook the job and tied the old man to a table and went to work and in about two minutes the arm was off during the operation the old man did not let on that it hurt him in the least When they got through he asked if they were done I told him he had but one arm now Well then give me a smoke he saaid^[sic] and did not appear to mind what was going on than if th[e]y were cutting away at [a] piece of leather [a]

the old man was kept in the hospital about ^Λmonth and his arm about well/then the Col let him go Lieut Camp above mentioned gave the soldiers an extra gill of whisk[e]y for a month for the good shot he made breaking the chiefs arm and stoping him from getting off for they had imbibed the idea that they could run away from the soldiers with the greatest ease

after this fuss was over. I started back to my wintering place again I got a few goods and made little packages for each of my Indians and we started this time we took a new rout and went by the Mississippi the first day we went to the falls and camped with sergeant Spaulding in charge of the saw mill the [sic] had a good warm room and gave us a good warm supper which we all enjoyed

in the morning we started early and went to Elk river from there we went home in three days so that we made the journey in five days home again found all well and [a] number of Indians awaiting for us to trade I done up what little trading there was to be done when Mr W^m Aitkin cam[e] down again and insisted on my going up to Sandy lake with him So I fixed up and one man with me and we started for another tramp of three days Mr. A had a dog train we [a] put all our bed[d]ing on and once in while Mr Aitkin would take turns and ride /# the first day we went about 45 miles to a place called by the chippewas Rabbit house in passing a place call[e]d Pattersons Rapids Mr A told me the rapids were named after a man that had been killed there by the Sioux Indians a party of men had been sent out to the Indian camps and having collected a considerable quantity of furs and meat several Indians came back with the men to help them in with their loads as all was carri[e]d by straps over the head it would take quite a company to carry what two horses would draw this comp[a]ny of whites and Indians camped at this place for the night th[e]y had built a large fire out of old dry pine eat their supper and dried their snow shoes and mockasins one of the Chippewas went down to the river to get a drink When he came back to the fire he told his comerads that there was some persons walking on the ice for the water works up and down all the time just like when people walk on the ice some others went and looked at the water Some times it would shake some times it would be still then again all at once the water would begin to shake again Some believed and some did not the first one that made the discovery said he believed there was a war party was on the river and he was a going to prepare for the worst So he put on his mockasins and fixed up his pack Some of the party

done the same but some would not believe and laid down and went to sleep About mid not [sic] here came a volley of balls and arrows into the camp there were 4 or five Indians killed the first five & one frenchman Patterson All that were left took to their heels and ran for for [sic] the[i]r lives the Sioux charged upon the camp and despatched those that were yet alive and scalped them then gathered up the booty which was considerable of furs and meat and hunted round to see if th[e]y could find any wounded two frenchmen that had put on their mockasins threw themselves under a large tree that laid a little up from the ground here the[y] laid trembling all the time the Indians were hunting the frenchmen said the Indians step[p]ed over the log 2 or three times and thinks the Indians must of seen them but did not want to kill them Some of the Indians and frenchmen run off barefooted and froze their feet verry bad and some of them died the two laid under the log until the Sioux went off when they cam[e] forth put on their mockasins and started for home empty and light as the Sioux had carr[i]ed off ev[e]ry thing that was of a[n]ly use to them

We left rabbit house early the next morning and went [to] cedar lake where there were two traders viz. Mr Oakes and Ashman /# here passed the remainder of the day in company with these gentlemen where we were treated verry kindley for the night and had some fine white fish for breakfast and started early for Sandy lake where we arrived some time after dark this day we traveled about 55 miles our men did not get in until about midnight /# the next morning we were all verry stiff and tired I rema[i]ned here with Mr Aitkin three days Mr A had made verry good improvements

for an Indian count[r]y

At this place Sandy lake the North West fur company once had a trad[i]ng post and was broken up after Lieut Z. M. Pike assended the Mississippi the american fur company cam[e] in and tore down the old North West Companys fort on Sandy lake and mooved over onto the Mississippi

where Mr Aitkin was now liv[i]ng and building[#] he had a fine garden and a large quantity of good vegetables I spent three days verry pleasently with Mr. A. and on the 4th day in the morning I started with my man for home again[#] went home in three days by the time it was beginning to get warm and the snow was beginning to melt after we pass crow Island at the mouth of the Crow Wing river the Mississippi is very much like the Minnesota woody bottoms and verry crooked only the Misspi [sic] has the most water[#] I got home I found the Indians waiting for me to get some amunition to go into the sugar bush for these people make large quantities of sugar the last one to start was the Hole in the day the chief of Sandy lake ch[i]pp[e]was he started on the 2^d of March 1825 1825[sic] he had not gone far before some wild geese passed over him and he fired and killed two of them and returned back and brought them both to me We now commenc[e]d making our packs of furs and on the last of March the ice moved out of the Missipi the first of april I went down in a canoe to get some more goods We found the ice had blocked up the river at a place called the little falls We took our canoe out and made a portage round the ice and went on down and in two days we went to Fort Snelling I found all well My wife and boy were all in good health I staid only three days and started back in my canoe with two men and a few goods I went as far as the falls and[#] heard

that Mr Bailey had arriv[e]d at Fort Snelling and I went back to see him to see if I could do anything with him about our old co-partnership business but he only laughed at me and [said] that I was verry impudent to talk to him about an old debt that had been settled (by cheating) a year ago So I went back and took my canoe again for my wintering ground We had strong head winds it took us 6 or 7 days to get up. one day we run under a leani[n]g tree our can[o]le got a turn on the men and came broad side against the tree and came near capsizing us and it was with much difficulty that we could get hold of an ax to cut the branches so we could get from the tree our situation was so precarious that we could hardly stir for fear of upsetting the canoe the water was verry deep and the current verry rapid and for a few mom[en]ts we were in great danger of loosing all and probably our lives also/#[out]
We got after some hard work against the wind and current and found all well but anxious to see us as they were out of provisions We waited a few days gathered what furs we could and started for home or Fort Snelling again We went down in one day and a half 120 miles by the river

About this time some emigrants came through from Red river of the North on the[i]r way the Sioux had att[a]cked them and killed some of them and took one white child prisoner Lieut Green was ordered to Lake Traverse where the Indians had the child and to take the child and bring it down to Fort Snelling So he went and the Indians gave up the child without any ceremony as they feared [a] Col Snelling the whole extent of the Sioux countery the Sioux had committed this outrage becaus[e] col Snelling had taken one of the[i]r chiefs and cut his arm off for killing cattle the

white people that were left when the S[i]oux fired upon them fled back to the British Settlement and the British made no demand for the murder therefore nothing was done about it and in fact it is suppos[e]d that the British did not care any thing about the affair [not] for th[e]y did¹ like to have their people leave their coloney as these had already left them and moved into Iowa and Wisconsin (other wise Michigan) at that time

after I got down with my furs I stoped about a month with my wife and boy this summer the Indians had all been to Prairie du chien to make a treaty of peace the nations for 300 or 400 miles round cam[e] into Canix [?] a¹ verry larg[e] concourse of Indians assembled Gove[r]n[or] Clark and some others were commissioners[#] The object of the treaty was for the Indians to make peace amongst themselves and the white people Whilst the Indians were making peace at Prairie du chien the Indians were war[r]ing at home So if peace was made hostilities were as soon commenc[e]d again and the peace amounted to nothing although it cost the govt many thousand dollars

during the last spring a duel was fought between Lieut Hunter and col Snellings son Joseph the col heard that the parties had gone out to fight and sent a guard out and stoped them the parties moved off and the guard went home and the combattants met in another place and exchanged shots the col son had the end of one of his fore fingers shot off this ended the strife and they went home[#] Some time after this another duel was fought between Lieut Baxley and capt Leonard they fired some 6 or 8 shots apiece Lieut Baxley got one shot the most cap Leonards second forgot to cock his pistol but Lieut Baxley missed[#] seconds interfered and tried to recincile matters but nothing would or could be done satisfac-

torily and at it they went again I believe the 8th shot Lieut Baxleys ball struck cap Leonard in the corner of the eye near the temple but did not kill him allthough it came verry near killing him. Lieut Baxley had 32 ball holes through his clothes but did not draw blood once Capt Leonard was sutler for the fort he was boarding with Lieut Baxley and was a verry vaain wicked man and it was for some bad language uused before Mrs Baxley that brought on their troubles I believe there were one or two other chalanges and I believe one of them exchanged shots and then made up and one party their seconds made the parties settle or drop the matter as th[e]y said the charges were too trifling to quarrel about

Lieut Baxley had got into a scrape the year before coming up from St Louis with his Lady on bo[a]rd the columbia fur cos keell boat they had got up some where about clarkesville when a difficulty happened between Lieut Baxley and one of the clerks of the company Lieut Baxley went into his wifes room to go to bed and found this clerks shoes in there Lieut Bax went out and talked to hur about it the clerk was about to take a glass of liquor at the time but instead of drinking the liquor he threw it in Lieut Baxleys face Lieut Baxley drew a pistol and shot the clerk dead I believe stil[l] it runs in my mind that he stab[b]ed him with a knife Lieut B never lived a happy life with his wife and finally they seperated and each took their own course for a livelihood and shortly after Lieut Baxl[e]y was dropped at the reduction of the army after the war, and that was the last I heard of him

the Sussetons had treated the traders verry badley after they heard that the old chefe had been imprisoned and had his arm cut off they thought of course he would either die or be killed

but they dare not kill any of the traders they found the fort was too close and too strong for them and that col Snelling was determined to punish them for bad conduct

After rema[i]n[in]g about a month I packed up a few goods and some powder and lead and started up the Misspi again this time I was destined for Leaf Lake with two large bark canus and four men and Mr Peter Quinn for interpreter there were quite a number of chippewas in company they had been down on a visit the moskitoes were terrible the men had to wear mittens and had to keep smokes in our canoes all day and at night we were compelled to surround our camp with smoke in order to get some rest after ten days toil we reached our place of destination Leaf Lake about 9 miles east of otter tail Lake We commenc[e]d building on the east side of the lake the lake has narrows in the middle the whole lake is about three miles in length We built four houses in the form of a square and left places for gates at each corner the logs and puncheons [we] were all up and were going on to make the floors out of puncheons when one morning a chippewa came in and said the Sioux had been to otter tail lake and killed a chippewa and his wife and the chippewa had killed one Sioux in the struggle for life the chippewas all started off to see what was done they found the chippewa and his wife scalped and the Sioux was set up nearby the chippewas and a great deal of Indian trinkets thrown over him the chippewas as soon as th[e]y got near the Sioux they fired a volley into his body and charged upon the dead carcass and scalped it and cut it to pieces and done many disgraceful acts to the dead body the killing of these chippewas frightened them so that they all moved off and said th[e]y would not winter there so I had to pull up my stakes and move down the river and commen[ce]d a new again at the mouth

of leaf river Leaf Lake is a place where coln^[sic] A^Dickson and D. Graham once wintered for the North West fur company but the^y were also disturbed [by] both parties Sioux and chippewas so they quit the country

after moovuing [sic] down to the mouth of Leaf river I went down to Fort Snelling to get my winters supplies for the winter /[#] I had to wait nearley a month before the boat arrived with the winters supplies from St Louis I got my goods as soon as possible and fixed up some things for my wife and boy and left in companey with Mr B. F. Baker the seasen was far advanc[e]d and we did not arrive at our wintering ground until freezing weather and I had to build Mr Baker had built at Crow Island during the summer ^{so} he had a house all ready to go into and I had to go to work and build I built a store house and a house for myself and interpreter My men wintered in a lodge made of polls and split wood set upright pitching together at the top and wide at the bottom

here the Indians brought me a young girl and the parents want[e]d me to take her and live with her for the winter I put them off they came again finally I consented and she lived with me about 2 months and went off to make sugar as she said /[#] after a while she came back again and staid a few days and went away again

I had a great struggle with the opposition this winter they watched me in every hole and corner they even made their men get up into the forks of the trees in the coldest of weather and watch us when we would be going out to the Indians after furs and if they could possibly discover where we were gone or going to they would follow us and try to get the furs from the Indians they

kept this up all winter but it done them no good for I sold my goods and made my packs notwithstanding the great efforts made to breake us up or to run us off from the countery

We had a verry deep snow in the winter of 1854^[sic] the winter was verry severe a number of Indians perished amongst the Sioux on the prairie^{/#} in the River Shiene the buffalo had left the country and the Indians could not follow theme^{/#} the snow was too deep they tried to make their way back again to their winter summer quarters or corn fields they eat up all their horses and dogs^{/#} Still th[e]y had not enough to bring them in and as they were traveling along in the snow they would fall down and there stay as of suffering they were to week for to get up again and those that could keep up did not think enough of those that had fallen to perish to help them up Self preservation was all the go and go ahead was their determination but finalley they had to go to eating each other they got so far gone they had to come to this When one would fall down dead allmost they would freeze in a few minutes^{/#} then some one coming on behind would cut off a limb and at night would cook and eat it some fortney perished about 200 got into their summer residence where they had corn one woman got down as far as Fort Snelling, crazy and she was allways hankering after human flesh and when the children would be playing about she often would say what fine fat children as soon [as] the children were told who and what she was they were all afraid of hur and would run and hide themselves when th[e]y saw the crazy woman a coming finalley one day she attempted to swim the Minnesota river and droened^[sic] in the attempt

during the winter I made one journey down to Mr Bakers at the mouth of the crow Wing river here I saw a deserter that had run

away from Fort Snelling he had frozen his feet and could not walk and in talking about matters of the world I found that he was a universalist and we had a long talk on the subject of religion which I suppose done neither of us any good for I told him in the end I should not like to trust him to raise a child of mine he retorted back in the same way/[#] so I dropped the subject and went to bed and earley in the morning I was off for home it is a hard days walk from Crow Wing to the mouth of Leaf river

We carried out the winter by going with a party of chippewas to visit a Sioux camp a long days jurny the Sioux came over first to see the chippewas the chippewas returned with the Sioux to their camp and some of the traders went in the traine to help them make peace We found the Sioux camped near the waters of the chippewa river in number about 100 lodges or about 500 sould we staid with the Sioux one day and two nights counciling and feasting and made pease to be broke the first good opportunity that should offer We left the Sioux camp for home came to the chippewa camp and stoped over night the next morn[in]g we got home again and waited for spring so we could make our packs and start down the river again in the meantime I sent Mr Quinn my interpreter over to Lake Traverse where Mr McKenzie lived about five days journey/[#] he took two dogs and train and one chippewa Indian and started/[#] he was gone 12 days and brought back some powder that I had sent him for about the middle of april the ice began to move the Indians had all left for Leech lake to make sugar

We were all alone and quite lonesome and the moment the ice would permit we were off, with about 30 packs. in a few days we all arrived safe at home/[#] Near fort Snelling as I passed the fort some of the officers hailed me and asked me if I had seen any

Sioux Indians I said no they said they had thought of send[i]ng a man up the Mississippi to inform us of some trouble th[e]y had with the Siou[s] Indians there had been a party of chippewas Hole in the day chief to see the commanding officer and to trade sugar/# they were camped below the fort in bottom some fifty in all men women and children the Sioux had visited them day after day and the Chippewas had feasted them on sugar until th[e]y were filled and gave them some to carry home with them one evening a parcele of young men had been to the chippewa camp feasting and dancing/# When they rose to depart when they got out side of the lodge one of the Sioux blowed a whistele when they all wheeled and fired into the chippewa lodges and ran off it was dark so no person followed them at one fire they wounded nine of the chippewas but fortunately [none] were killed but some was thought would not survive the night they were all taken up to the council house and laid on the floor the blood stood in large puddles all about the floor the surgeon of the fort dressed all the wounds and Col Snelling made them as comfortable as he could for the night and in the morni[n]g th[e]y were all taken into the fort where they were out of danger from the Sioux in the morning Col Snelling ordered all the Sioux to come into council a few of them came in but the principle men did not come in they knew pretty well well [sic] that some of them would be taken as hosteges until the others that fired on the chippewas were brought in and th[e]y would not come in but rather prepar[e]d for resistance the Col ordered two compan[ies] of sold[i]ers out with offic[e]rs and our interpreter/# the Indians ran and hid themselves in the grass at last th[e]y came upon a party of them up at Lands End th[e]y were ordered

to sarrender but th[e]y refused saying the col would kill them Bad Hail the old orator and principal soldeir^[sic] of the nation told the interpreter if he put his hands on him he would shoot him the interpreter had two companies to back him up and pushed forward and laid hold of Bad Hail the most prominent Indian of all the bands the soldiers stepped rite up with the officers and Mr Bad Hail was confined When the Indians saw this th[e]y did not know what to do and kept retreating finally the officers managed so as^[to] saround about a dozen of them mostly chiefs and braves and closed in on them and made them prisoners when the Indians saw this th[e]y gave up and came in and all marched down to the council house /^{it} stil th[e]y could not get them into council they were fearful of a trap the agent Major L. Taliaferro told them as long as his flag was flying over their heads th[e]y should not be hurt /[#] So after much parlying th[e]y consented to go into council When th[e]y all got in a large build[ing] full (ah) says the col I have got you now in a low tone voice the Indians commenc[e]d by justifying themselves th[e]y complained that the chippewas were allways the aggressors after making a peace the chippewas were the first to break it the chippewas said the same of the Sioux /[#] So it went back and forth and it was found that the Indians could not settle their difficulties themselves neither did the agent and col agree as to what was the best policy to pursue in the settlement of this difficulty amongst them finally col Snelling took the whole thing into his own hands and went at at ^[sic] it in earnest he told the Indians he was a going to keep some of them as hostages fo[r] three days and at the end of three days if the party was not brought in that had done the mischief he would

hang the hostages this made them hang their heads they appeal[e]d to their agent Major L. Taliaferro the agent told the col he had prom[i]sed them protection as long as th[e]y were under his flag/# Well says the col I can easily obviate that and went out and had the flag pulled down and when the Indians saw that th[e]y made loud complaints of injustice the col told them he was not a going to allow them to come right here under the guns of the fort and commit murder— with impunity then run off and cut up as th[e]y pleased then laugh at the white people and call them cowards &c &c Now says the col I am a going to stop as much of this kind of work as possible the Indians said it was a band of foolish boys that done the mischief and offered 30 horses to settle the matter No said the col— you see that blood all over the floor if your people had of been shot that way would you have sold your blood for a parcel of poor olde horses No saays^[sic] the col you never would of stoped crying for blood in return/# life for life you would have asked and I shall do the same and picked out some 6 or 8 chiefs and braves and told them to go to the guard hou[se] and sent the other Indians off too^[sic] hunt up the murderers

The Indians raised a party of braves and went in search of the depredators/# th[e]y at the end of thre[e] days brought in two of them and said the rest had ran off and they could not find them/# the col was not satisfied and said he must have some more so the Indians started again in two days they returned and said the rogues had fled the countery and th[e]y could not get them the col said he must have another so one of the braves turned over his brother that had been charged with having been seen with the party that fired on the chippewas but it was found out after warrards [sic] that this Indian was not with the party when th[e]y

fired upon the chippewas

A.nag. a. nah. Jee. is the name of the man that gave up his brother of Little Sixes Band of Sioux col Snelling ordered a serjeant and a guard to take the three Sioux and march them out from the Fort about a quarter of a mile and also ordered the chippewas out to shoot them which act they performed verry willingly /# the Sioux were place[d] some fifteen paces off from the chippewas /# the first fire 2 of the Sioux fell one was mortally wounded but started to run but another shot from the chippewas brought him down /# So the chippewas took the bodies of the three Sioux and threw them into the Mississippi and all went home as quiet as if nothing had happened this act of col Snellings struck terror into the the [sic] Sioux nation and it humbled the Sioux down so that there was no more trouble with them for many years from the Mississippi to the Missouri col Snelling was blamed by many of the friends of the Sioux firstley because no chippewas had died of their wounds and 2^dly because th[ely] said that col Snelling had no authority to take the life of any one and th[ely] stigmatized him as a murder[er] /# then others said again that col Snelling had don[e] right and that by that he no doubt would save the lives of many Indians and some whites also for when Indians formerly had committed murder they would be taken before the courts the result would be an acquital for the want of witness[es], and I am willing to join with those in upholding col Snelling as I have lived to see the effects of his rule while he was command[i]ng officer at Fort Sn[e]ll [i]ng and must say by the col order[i]ng the three Sioux to be shot the act has save[d] many a life from brutal murder and Sioux remember it to this day and stil talk about the matter with a verry subdued

tone when th[e]y speak of it amongst themselves

after spend[i]ng about a month I made preparations for the ch[i]ppewa country again by this time [I] began to get tired of the country both on account of the poor liv[i]ng and hard labor required to keep up the trade and as I could not take my wife with me I was determined it should be the last time I would winter with the chippewas So I got ready and started in compa[n]y with Mr Baker again this time I had to go to a new place and build again/11 this was at Leech Lake the head of the southern fork of the Mississippi We went in to the country by the way of gull lake and made portages from one lake to an nother until we reached our place of destination wher[e] I went to work and built on the point of land mak[i]ng in from the south and I bel[i]eve is an island and I should think there were ten thousand acres of land in it the northern most point of this island reaches near to the middle of the lake, which is about thirty miles long

on my way up the Mississippi I got sick with some kind of fever I had but little medicene and I did not get well for a month as soon as my house was up I started down for my goods for the winters trade We had to wait a long time for the keel boat with our goods and it was late in fall before we got into the country with our goods the Indians most of them had taken their winter credits and gone off to hunt had it not been that I met some of them on the Mississippi as I was going up and made some credits I should not got any Indians to hunt for me this winter at all/12 as soon as I arrived we had to go to fishing as the traders and Indians all have to live on fish and potatoes through the winter we caught about 2000' Telebee a species of white fish only

much smaller weighing from a half to one pound apiece we run a knife through [sic] the tail of the fish and put ten on a stock and hang them up head down-wards to dry in this way th[e]y keep fresh and good all winter this is our bread and meat for about 8 months of the year the distance is so great and our canoes so small that we cannot carry any more provisions some times we can get a little wild rice from the Indians which is quite a relief for a change of diet once in a while 2 sacks or one one [sic] barrel of flour was all that any of us could take for our winter supply here we dragged out a long tedious winter most the time fishing for a living We used to cut holes thr[o]ugh the ice about three feet thick and set our nets by means of a long poll/# We would cut holes with axes until we came to the water then we used an ice chisel this is about 2 feet long made of iron bevelled on one side and a little crook in the other end and lashed to a handle or poll about 6 feet long With this instrument the bottom of the hole made large and the holes are made nearly as far apart as the poll is long and the net is tied to one end of the long poll and pushed along under the ice from one hole to another until they get to the length of the net which generally is about 180 feet but when the net is floated and the sinkers it does not measure not more than half that distance as the net when set has to be pulled about one half so as to give the fish a chance to play and this keeps them from break[i]ng the meshes verry much/# the pike or pickeral are verry hard on the nets there numerous and long sharp teeth cut a great many holes in the net but the fish[i]ng in the winter is a cold and poor business Sometimes in the morning we do not get more than one fish som[e]times none

atal sometimes five or six When there is no fish the poor dogs have to suffer of which most every trader in the north have a train/# In Leech Lake there are a few white fish that will weigh from 10 to 15 lbs but they are scarce the Dorra or Pike are verry abundant in March. the traders and Indians set their nets in the air holes in the lake and large quantities of them are taken at this season of the year this species of fish are hunting for places to spawn and it is generally shoal water and grassy bottoms & it suits them. also they find small fish about these air holes and th[ely] spawn and find their food all at the same place one net frequently loads a dog sled with this species of fish every morning.



about the first of May the Indians most of them are in from their spring hunts. they kill from 4 to 800 musk rats some times one or two otters a beaver or two a few mink a few coon some times a bear skin makes a good hunters spring hunt, worth from one to two hundred dollars.


Mr Rousan an old canadi[a]n who was trading there for the ameri[can] fur company told me he was there when Lieut Z. M. Pike cam[e] up to Leech Lake in the winter 1814 & 15 and found a British flag flying and ordered his soldiers to shoot it down. he says the soldiers fired several shots but could not bring it down Mr Rousan said he ordered the Indians to try their skill at shooting and the[y] fired onley a few shots before the flag fell to the ground

Whilst I was waiting here for the ice to break up in the lake 2 of my men deserted me and went off to Red river which made made [sic] me short of hands to take my canoes out the distance beeing about 5 or 6 days travel by the river

at last about the 20 of May 1827 the ice gave way to the force of the wind and the heat of the sun and in a few days we were afloat under way for Fort Snelling again the first day we crossed the lake and passed by the old wintering ground near the outlet of the lake this point had been used for a long time by the North west company for a trading post and this is the noted place where their flag was shot down by Lieut Z.M. Pike it must have required a great deal of energy and perseverance on the part of that officer to have reached that post in the winter without snow shoes or mockasins the distance being about 250 miles through a thick forest of pines and under brush with thick heavy shoes which became very slippery in walking in the snow and they froze hard in the feet and the feet are always cold and frequently the men got frosted We moved on down into the river and encamped for the night the next day we worked all day in the serpentine course of the river the grass being higher than our heads we could not see out any distance from the canoes in the evening we came to the Po.Keg a Ma in the chippewa tongue a fall in the Mississippi/# here the river is not more than 20 yards wide and rushes through between two rocks one from each side of the river the pitch or rapid is about 4 or 5 feet and in the middle and at the bottom of the shoot is a large boulder and the whole river dashes on to this rock and divides the stream and it reunites below the rock again/# the traders all have to land here and make a portage and carry their goods about fifty yards round to the still water below the rapids Som[e] traders had landed one day coming down and all had landed except one small bark can[o]le with only one man in it he was noticing some thing on the shore and before he noticed he was

drawn into the suck of the rapids an[d] in an instant more he was against the big rock below his canoe went down sid[e]wise and struck about half way or middle of the can[o]le and broke square in two one half went [on] each side of the rock and the man flo⁴a]ted to shore in one half of the canoe and his load in the other half all wet the rest of the company had a great laugh at the man for his ducking and the great fright he got in going over the fall without thinking of what he was doing or where he was going [^]6.

*in the spring of 1855 we had the highest water that was ever known in this country and in the commenc[e]ment of the winter of 1854 a large body of ice  broke off from the fall of Sa[i]nt Anthoney and clog[g]ed up the channel and water rose about 20 feet and kept breaking the ice and forcing it along before the rise and rush of water/[#] by the time it reached it/[it] was frightful to look at but as soon as the flow had passed the fort it got vent by a channel  that flowed into the Minnesota river but in passing the fort it carried off a long wash house belonging to the fort and a man in it the man and wife had both got out but the man thought of his watch and [went] after it but the rise of water was so sudden that it raised the house that wase made of solid hewed logs bodily up and floated some distance before it came to pieces and the man that was carried off in it was never heard of or found/[#] the flow passed off down about a mile

on a little prairie on the east bank lived a trader by the name of Farribault they had been notified from the fort of the breaking up of the ice and th[e]y made their escape to the opposite side of the river but down there the water  did not rise high enough to injure their houses but the following spring the water

[6. The narrative from this point to the second paragraph on page 93 was written on a separate sheet attached to page 110 of the manuscript. It was inserted after the 10th line from the bottom of manuscript page 112.]

rose from the melting of the snow which was that winter from 3 to 4 feet deep Mr Farribaults house was entirely swept away but he had used precaution and moved all his effects to the west side of the river[#] at Red river of the north the water was so high that the river overflowed its banks for 30 miles on each side of the river and the people many of them had to live on rafts for several days before boats could carry them to dry land and it was reported that they could not find a good landing until th[e]y reached Turtle Mountains the inhabitants lost their all and had to commence^[sic] a new again the Hudsons bay fur company sent to the States and purchased cattle, horses and sheep and sold them to the colonists to commence anew again but quite a number of them left there and came over to the United States and settled for life the driving these cattle across to red river was the cause of the Sioux chiefs loosing one of his arms at fort snelling^{7.}

We soon got our loads carri[e]d round and floated on down to Sandy lake, the next day. We stoped onley a few moments the clerks of the american fur company had became dissatisfied with their employers and wished to leave them and join the columbia fur company and gave me a letter to that effect which I promised to lay before the company and and [sic] done so on my arrival at our depot Lands End near Fort Snelling we passed sandy lake the next day passed the houses of Mr Oaks and chpws^[chippewas?] near ceedar lake the[y] had all left for Mackinaw with their furs and to get a new supply for the winter

from here we went to pine river and camped for the Pine river is a rout that light canoes travel to go to Leech lake[#] also Willow

[7. The narrative from the asterisk on page 92 to this point is written on a separate sheet attached to page 110. of the manuscript.]

river is traveled for that purpose but loaded canoes cannot travel these routs as the water is too shoal and rapid the second day we came to Crow Wing hear [sic] we heard of Genl Jacksons election we found Mr Baker had been gone several days so we floated on down in a day and a half to Fort Snelling found all well and the packs pretty much all made ready to ship to St Louis a steamboat came to our depot and took the furs the first steam[er] that ever came that far up the Minnesota in 1827 although there had been 3 or 4 to Fort Snelling. the first was in the spring of 1823 a stern wheeler, the name I do not now recollect, from Cincinnati with supplies for the fort at this time all the provisions were brought from there for all the troops on the Mississippi and we used to get the best of flour for \$5 pr bl and 8\$ for prime pork after all the packs were off the partners of the company got together and had a little council of what was to be done the following year

I told them for one that I was agoing to quit the Chippewa country as I had been there three years starving half the time/ some one else must take my place for a while No one made any reply Some other business was transacted also a proposition to sell out came up and it was agreed that if the agent Mr McKenzie could sell for enough to clear us from debt for to do so by this time we had incurred a verry heavy debt our outfits on on [sic] the Missouri had been verry expensive and our whole debt was now about \$100,000 So Mr McKenzie sold out/ the american fur company agreed to take all the goods we had left at cost and give us the Missouri trade they to furnishe the goods and we were to get one third of the profit the two parties went to work and took an

inventory of stock and found that we did not pay our debts to Messrs Powels by several thousand dollars this dissatisfied the most of the partners to think that Mr McKenzie had sold out to such a disadvantage also Messrs Powels had almost stoped business on account of this heavy debt that we owed them but Mr McKenzie^[sic] had made the bargain and said he was a going to stick to it So the rest of us all backed out except Mr W^m Laidlaw[#] So they two Scotch men took the american fur companys offer and the rest of us were left to grub for ourselves five in number We had labourd and half starved for four years and had run the amer[i]can fur compa[n]y so hard that th[e]y were glad to come to some kind of an arrangement but we may say our four years hardships and labor went to the benefit of Mr McKenzie and Laidlaw and off they started for the Missouri country

My brother remained within Powels clerking again Mr Lamont went into business with his brother in Saint Louis and died abo[u]t two years after. he left a d[a]ughter uncared for Mr Laidlaw came round this way to go to Missouri to see about some private matters of his and Mr McKenzies When he arrived we fired him a salute from a swivel the^[sic] we had that belonged to our keel boat[#] Six full loads we fired and a squib for the agent of the Columbia fur comp[a]ny for the honor of selling us out in the manner he did[#] Myself Mr Jeffryes Mr Renville and Mr Tillton were all out of employment Mr Tillton got into business with one Mr Parker in the lead business at galena Mr Renville got an assortment of goods from the American fur company and Mr Jeffryes went with him as clerk in the Indian trade at Lacquiparle So they had all got into business but myself

I was left on the bank of the river my self and wife and one child howeve[r] I had been up in the summe[r] to Leech Lake and brought away what few goods that were left there and turned them over to the company the Indians all over the country looked verry sad over the events that had taken place and said they would starve and freeze Mr McKenzie never offered me a place as clerk or interpreter or any other position or place in the new business he was about to enter into although I worked and starved to my hearts content for three years for the company. So when the company [was] takeing an account of stock I asked Mr McKenzie for some powder and lead to leave with my wife and child as I had to go some where and find some kind of empl[o]yment With some hesitation Mr McKenzie let me have a few pounds of powder and lead /# So th[e]y two went into the Missouri trade and in a few years they made some fifty thousand dollars apiece Mr Laidlaw quit the trade and settled at Fort Leavenworth and in a few years after as well as Mr Jeffryes and Mr Renville and my broth[er] died some years since also Mr Lamont. Mr Tillton I believe is also dead So there is only Mr McKenzie and myself still living of the old coumbia[sic] fur company

after all hade left and all the goods been removed from Lands End to the american fur companys store I had to start and it so happened that the steamboat Josephine came up to Fort Snelling with supplies for the fort /# So I shiped for St Louis where my brother was living [with] Messrs Powels. it made me feel sad sade, to think and review the past [that] in five years that I had been there I had formed the acquaintance of most all the officer[s] in the fort [to] and all the traders of the country and leave go amongst strangers

and nothing before me but the cloth[e]s I had on Everything looked gloomy and then again to leave my Indian wife and boy was another thing that troubled me much as I could not leave them well provided for the company beeing in debt I could not get aney-thing from that source and had taken nothing for three years but barely enough to to [sic] keep me from suffering in the winter and what I did get was of the most common kind and were not fit to go into decent compa[n]y ~~the~~ the boat w[as] getting ready to be off I went and bid the old woman a goodby and left hur with hur parents and went and embarked the clerk of the sutler store [to] called me ^{one} side and asked me if I had any mon[e]y I told him no So he took ten dollars and gave ^{me} saying you are travell[i]ng amongst strangers and you may want a little this was an act of kindness at the hands of Mr H. K. Ortley the clerk of the sutlers store at Fort Snelling which I felt deeply to appreciate and asked another favor of him — that was if [he] heard of my wife and child's beeing in want of provisions at any time to let them have some he promised to do so as he had at one time thought of getting my wife when she was a girl but he would not promise to mar[r]ly hur for life this the old folks did not like and would not let the daught[e]r marry under those circumstances to be kept a few years and then cast off with three or four children so Mr Ortley did not get hur

the boat was ready and off we sail[e]d and I took a last look at the land I loved and ^[it] appear[e]d more like my native land and home by a long residence in it than the one I had left to the East in the state of New York Phelpsstown ontario county I shook hands with my old friend Mr Ortley and long shall I rememb[e]r the time

when he slipped the ten dollar bill on the state bank of Missouri into my hand and I thought of the old proverb a friend in time of need is a friend indeed he lived at fort Snelling 4 or 5 years left 2 or three children went to St Louis set up a large grocery store but died in 2 or 3 years after

the bell rang and the boat passed slowly over the bar at Mendota which gave us time to view the old place where we had often assembled to see Indian dances and to trade Indian curiosities after we got under way I found that col Snelling was on board the boat and family going East and to Washington the col was to settle his accounts and whilst there he took sick and died

Nothing transpired on our rout from Fort Snelling to St Louis only that I hired out to the captain of the steamboat as clerk at twenty dollars pr month but I had to stand watch half the night and the captain the other half of the night We arrived all safe and sound at St Louis again found my brother well and was principal bookkeeper in the Mess^[rs] Powels dry goods store as I had got employment on the steamboat in the daytime I had to be at the boat allways in daytime either receiving or unlo[a]ding freight and it was only in the evening that I could get a chance to stroll about the cittey a little while in the evening with my brother

the[y] made regular trips from St Louis to Galena the water was verry low on the Rock Island and Desmoin rapids and we had hard work to get over /# frequently had to lighten the steamboat with a keel boat by taking the freight from the steamer and takeing to shore and leaving a part, then moove ahead with a part of the freight until we found deep water when we would put the freight into the steamer again /# but whenever freight was left on the shore I had to stay and watch it /# So betwixt three duties that I had to

perform clerking stand[i]ng watch on the boat half the night and
 watching the freight on shore [I] worried out in about two months /#
 frequently I would take hold and help load lead in [or] derr [sic] that we
 could keep up our regular trips this was verry hard work to
 handle pigs of lead for one or two hours at a time was verry
 straini[n]g on the hands and arms but I was careful with the
 freight and never had to pay for any but once and that was some
 furs that was stolen by the barkeeper /# about fifty dollars worth
 the boat had to pay for

We worked hard all the fall run[n]ing from St Louis to Galena
 and the boat made about two thousand dollars capt Clark owned
 and commanded the boat final[l]y the ice commenced running and
 we quit the trade to Galena and laid up a few days in St Louis
 and painted the boat and repaired her machinery some and took in
 freight for New orleans mostly bulk meat or pork in pieces and
 some lard and honey So we got a full freight but there were so
 many boats in that trade we had to carry freight verry cheap and
 our boat being small did not pay verry well to work cheap on small
 freights on our way down we got aground twice and had to unload
 twice this was hard work and we had to work night and day for
 the ice was not far behind us and we were fearful if the ice over
 took us it would cut our boat to pieces in a short time however
 we got cl[e]ar and ran into the bank one morning in a fog and got
 in amongst a p[a]rrel of snags and logs afloat here we expected
 to be lost every minuet but the snags were old and rotten and
 gave way when the boat flo[a]ted into on to [sic] them the
 wheelles of the steamboat had got full of roots and even whole
 trees roots and all had got fastened to us and it took us half an




hour to get clear from them by this time the fog had cleared off a little and we could see that the river was full of old dead trees flo[a]ting down with the current at a very rapid rate the water was verry high the water was out of its banks most all thy [sic] way from the mouth of the Ohio to New orleans by this time I was prettey well tired out not only stand[i]ng watch half the night I had to get up every time the boat landed to wood or take in freight or passeng[er]s /[#]as I was clerk the captain would not have any thing to do with the accounts My rest beeing broken so much it made me sick but I stuck to my place and before we got down we got into another pile of logs in a large eddy in a fog in the night I think we were two hours getting out of this scrape /[#] at last we arrived safe at New Orleans and we were informed that the water had never been known so high it was only about 2 feet below the level I felt verry unwell but went [to] work and got out part of the freight [#]the barkeeper had been ashore and returned and said there was a ball this evening close by So they all captain along agreed to go to the ball I felt unwell and did not care about going so I agreed to stay and keep watch [#]but it appears that the bar keeper had looked for an opportunity to get all hands off of the boat so he could steal some of the freight and his plan worked verry well for after all hands of the boat had got to dancing they thought nothing of the boat until near morning and I was left all a[lone] nearley all night and got so sleepy that I got sound asleep in my chair and no doubt the bar keeper was watching me all the time to see if I got to sleep so he could p[i]llage some of the freight and his plan worked but well for the next morn[i]ng there was a barrel of lard missing

the captain whe[n] he cound it out commenc[e]d swearing and cursing me and said I had not attended to my duty in watching the boat I told him I could not watch above and below at the same time well he said if you had not went to sleep you could have heard them in taking a barrel of lard from the boat I asked him why he allowed all the boat hands to leave the boat and be gone all night he said he he [sic] did not know all the hands were going to leave the boat and said I ought to have told him that th[e]y were all going to the party but this all were excuse to throw the blame on me for he knew all the hands were all absent from the boat for th[e]y were all at the ball where [he] was danc[i]ng all night I told the owner of the freight how it was and he was satisfied that the captain was all together to blame in the matter and said he would make the captain pay for the lard and done so by deducting the amount out of the fr[e]ight which made quite a hole in the fr[e]ight bill the capt was mad at me and did not speak to me for three days but the bar keeper got off clear with the lard which cost the captain about \$30 this was the second pull for the bar keeper makeing \$80 dollars in one trip he got out of the captain by stealing

this same man came near ruining the captain once before he got mad at one of the engineers one day and set the engine agoing when we were takeing on wood one day and gave it a full head of steam and the way that old m[a]chinery flew for a few moments was wonderful/[#] the fly whee[l] which weighed about two tons went so fast we could not see it and it is a wonder it did not fly all to pieces and kill some persons on the boat the engineer heard it and ran from the table at breakfast and shut off the steam a

fortunate circumstance that noth[i]ng was broke and no one hurt /#
 the captain tackled the bar keeper and gave him a terrible cursing
 and that was the last of it /# the captain had got into a scrape
 coming down which like to have all in the cabin into trouble it[sic]
 /# a woman had taken passage for New orleans where hur parents
 lived her parents were a respect[able] family and belong to one
 of our religous socieites [sic] in good stand[i]ng but the daughter had
 becom[e] wild and profligate (too often the case in citties) and
 ran away from home and went to St Louis Some of hur friends found
 her out and persuaded her to return to her parents and she consented
 and went in the our boat the captain had found out who she was
 and was known to leave his berth and go to this womans and was ac-
 cused of it by some of the passengers this made him mad and he
 accused me and others in the cabin of watching him and circulating
 lies about him I told [him] he was mistaken so far as I was
 concerned he went all round the boat but could get no satisfac-
 tion on the subject and the thing droped where it was commen[ce]d

three days after the captain told us he was going up red river
 as the[y] had no boats that season there was some freight for the
 upper part of the Red river he handed me a check on one of the
 banks and told me to go and eelleet and get the mon[e]y for the
 freight of our trip down I went to the bank and got it all in
 silver and put it into a shot bag and was walking along by one of
 the chain gangs working on the levee one says to me if [I] could
 meet you alone somewhere with that bag you would not keep it long
 he said I thanked him for the compliment and told him I was glad
 to see he was safe enough and that I did not fear him in the way he
 was fixed there he laughed and went on about his work

We got in our freight and left the cittey for Natchitoches on the red river of the South. Went on verry well until we got into the Red river. one day our skiff broke loose. we came near beeing blowed up by one of the engineers. Whilst we were working to get the skiff the engineer  held on all steam and it was escaping at a fearful rate from the safety valve. I wa[s] fearful of danger and raised the valve a little to let off some of the steam that was forc[i]ng the boilers terribly. We could see the steam flying from most every joint or splic[e]. the captai[n] scolded me for raising the safety valve and I would scald som[e]body. We had also a larg[e] [boat] flat or broad horn as th[ey] are term[e]d on the lower Mississippi in tow and kept onto work helping to get the skiff to its place and the flat boat wand[?] some new lashings. the engineer held on to all steam and I discovered there was something the matter with him/# I went and told the captain that the engine[e]r would blow us all up very soon if he did not go and see to him. the capt started  but before he got to the engine a piece burst out of the steamopipe steamopipe [sic] as large as a mans finger and it made all hands scatter. the steam flew with so much force that no one could approach near enough to do any thing to stop the leak. the capt was now glad to got [sic] the opportunity to let off steam through the safety valve and by so doing let off enoug[h] so that we got a piece of copper plate and three or four doubles of canvass and a strong cord and lashed the copper and linen on over the hole and stoped the leak. if we had of got blown up and the [boat] sunk if we had not have been killed by the steam we should have been drown[e]d /#  the Mississippi was so high that that [sic] it backed the water up in Red river 90 mil[e]s and the mouth of the river was about 30

miles wide so there was no possibility of escaping a watery grave and all must have perished for what for the fault of one man
 # the engineer had been indulging verry strongly in New orleans and had got the delirium tremens and was perfectly out of his head at the time and came so near blowing us all in to eternitey however providence over ruled the disaster and we got safeley under way again and went on up a piece further and took in a wodow [sic] woman and some slaves in the night /# they sai[d] th[e]y had been a a [sic] week on a raft the whole country was flooded with water /# We went on and found a steam boat Robert Burns aground

by this time we had got above the flood of the Mississippi and found the banks of the Red river about fifteen feet above water the weather was very mild and ple[a]sent the fact of seeing nice high and dry banks once more was gratify[i]ng to the eyes and body for we had been about 15 days sailing about in this high water and could not scarseley find dry ground enough to land the steamboat on

the Robert Burns lay in the channel and we could not pass until she got off So we laid th[e]re [the] balance of the day and a part of the next when the Burns got off and as she passed us missed us and that was all and went off

We had a passenger on board a kind of trader he had com[e] all the way from St Louis with us and is one that the captain had accused of watching his movements about the lady cabin passenger before refer[re]d to he had purchased with the captain som[e] 30 barrels of whisk[e]y from a little boat trading up and [d]own the Mississippi/river this laden our steam boat so that we had much trouble to get along the river was narrow and crooked and

full of snags we got up to Alexandria and got off some of our load and went on a little better for one day when the water got very shoal again and one place was barely wide enough to let the boat through

We had now been about a week out and had got out of provisions and we had much trouble in getting such supplies from the inhabitants as the boat wanted for the inhabitants lived mostly on hominy and the negroes the same our fair weather turned into raining the captain and Mr Gray hired a couple of horses and went up to Natchitoches a distance of about 30 miles by land and told me to work along up as well as I could after we got off for we were now aground With much hard pulling we got off but there were so many snags that we made slow progress

it rained all night and all day the next day it it [sic] slackened up a little and the capt and Mr Gray came back again it set into raining about dark and it actually came down [in] streams in the morn[ing] it slackened up a little and the water had commenced rising so we got under way and got up to Natchitoches and a hard trip we had of it

the Red river of the South resembles the Minnesota river very much in width depth and serpentine course and height of banks but the timber is different the great cypress trees laden with moss hanging from the top to the ground and the dry land is not more than half a mile wide and from that to a mile where it terminates in those cypress swamps the farms for sugar and cotton are from a half to one mile wide along the banks of the rivers

the first night we arrived the pilot went ashore and got up a Spanish fandango ball this was something I wanted to see having

heard a great deal about the Spaniards I wanted to see them perform so the captain ordered some one to keep watch and we all went the boats crew most of them join[e]d in the dance the old Spanish women and one or two q[u]art[er]roons women and about a dozen men for the ball a verry good sample of the inhabitants of the place the women had tortilloses a mixture of flour and corn meall made into small rolls then roll[ed] up in cane leaves and boiled the Spanish were buying them I supposed it was someth[i]ng good and purchased half a dozen and thought I would try them and of all the insiped things that I ever tasted were these tortilloses the Spanish appeared to be verry fond of them

○/they had a little lap dog run[n]ing about the floor where th[er]e were a danc[ing] and barking and I commenc[e]d feeding him the tortilloses after while the pilot came to me and told me the Spanish were mad at me for feeding the tortilloses to the dog they took it as an insult to their mode of cooking and told me to stop/ I threw the balance that I had in my hands and took up my hat and walked away down to the boat and left them to dance and eat their tortilloses to themselv[e]s I never saw a more vulgar looking little company than had got together to have what they called a ball the boats crew danced nearley all night

the next morning we went to work to unload the boat and went on very well got nearly half out before breakfast was call[ed]/ I turned to go to to [sic] breakfast and saw one of the men rolling a hogshead of sugar on a plank alone I spoke to him and told him not to attempt to rool [sic] the hogshead of sugar out alone but he persisted in doing it I remonstrated and told him he would let it into the water O no he said and went on and allmost out

when the hogshead of sugar took a cant and over it went into the river one end on dry land and the other wet it was rolled out [as] soon as possible but it was spoiled it was full of water and in a few minutes it was all molasses and commenc[e]d run[n]ing out/# the captain commenc[e]d swear[i]ng at me and wanted to know why I let that man roll the sugar into the river I told him I had forbid him and to wait for help but persisted and went ahead after being told twice why in hell did you not call some hands to help I said they had all gone to breakfast he kept on swearing saying you allways have some kind of a foolish get off for negligence of duty and went off to breakfast and I followed after breakfast the capt went on shore and got an auctioneer and had the molasses sold for about nine dollars I told him to make the man pay the balance by working on the boat he let fly an oath and said he had not got a cent and how can I make him pay for the sugar I said nothing more the captain was mad all the way down to New orleans and hardley spoke to any one on the boat for two or three days we hurr[i]ed on got unloaded and made off down stream

by this time the water had risen about ten feet and rushed on down with a frightful current the bayous that run out of the river run out at a frightful rate and if a small boat should get drawn side wise into one I believe I[t] would break the boat in two

[on]
we cam[e] back to Alexandria and found our old friend the flat boat there he said he had not sold enough to pay his freight and was about leaving for New orleans he was a fun[n]ly old fellow active and had been intrusted with a large amount of property other wise grocerise from the ohio river several farm[er]s had clubed togeth[er] and made a large flat boat and put in all their spare

produce and sent this man down to sell it for them with his own went on down to New orleans and took in some more fre[i]ght and went back to Alexandria again

here the captain cam[e] near getting into a bowie knife scrap on account of some freight that had been landed and the owners had taken it away and then would not pay the freight the captain went and got a knife and went and demanded pay or the goods so he could get his pay out of them and flo[u]rished his bowie a while and the other party the same but bystanders interfered and got the matter settled and the capt got a check on the bank and got his money

by this time we began to get sick of the country and the people in it as a large number of [them] were cut throats and black legs /# Alexandria was a pretty little town with pine trees growing amongst the houses which gave it a pretty appearance from the river but Natchitoches is noth[i]ng but some log huts with only 3 or 4 only common houses when we were there in in [sic] the winter of 1822 & 3 we got off as soon as we could for New orleans got there we found our old friend with the flat boat had sold out and spent the most of the mon[e]y and left for parts unknown so his friends at home had to suffer. he had a fine lot of farmers products horses cows pigs fowls apple cider cheese butter peach brandy cider brandy whisk[e]y corn flour and in fine he had the finest lot of go[o]ld provisions that I had ever seen nice and clean all loss to the owners several thousand dollars worth and I was told that was a frequent occurrence by the Ohio and Indianians When they get to N. Oth[e]y get to gambl[in]g and loose all

this was Saturday /# in the afternoon — a gentleman came on board the boat and appear[ed] to be an old friend of the captains and set

and talke[d] verry fri[e]ndley with the capt about half an hour and went away again in about an hour after another gentleman came to the wharf and called the captain and told him he wanted to speak to him the captain went out and th[e]y walked off together in about half an hour the capt came back and said did you see that man on shore that called me out I said yes well said the capt that was the sherrif the man that came here first has sued me for debt the capt said he cla[i]med \$400 on that steam boat or his boat on the engine and the capt said he would not pay it for it was an old one and was not worth any thing like he charged for it So the capt went to a lawy[e]r and gave him 25\$ and told him the facts in the case the lawyer told him the laws were verry strict in that citty about such things and said the plaintiff had all the advantage of him and now said he you have one way of escape left that is get up steam quietley [sic] in the morning Sunday and start off So we done and got off cl[e]ar but had no freight So we worked our way back to St Louis without any freight to pay our expenses So the capt lost about five hundred dollars in his New orleans trade and got back to St Louis about the 10th February We remain[e]d in port a few days

one day the capt cam[e] to me and said the boat could not pay a clerk now as there was not much business doing in freight but if the 2^d pilot and I would take the barr we might have all we could make out of it So we agreed to do it and got our supplies and had them charged to the boat My brother was stil living with the Messrs Powels the capt got about half a load of freight and a few passengers and started for Galena

the day before we arrived at Galena it commenc[e]d snowing

and there was ice run[n]ing from the Mississippi and we took a large keel in tow so we just moved but we got to the mouth of Fevere river after dark and it began to turn cold and I comme[n]c[e]d mak[i]ng way on fever river and when we got to galena on the morn[i]ng of the 23 February 1828 the ice newley formed was strong enough for the boys to skate on all round the steamboat & here the boat laid for two weeks frozen in

the inhabitants had been celeebrating Washingtons birth day before and in the evening th[e]y pretended that a steam boat was coming by c[ar]rying the lead and firing cannon and hoaxed a good many of the citizens that came out to see if a boat had arrived and little did th[e]y think that a boat was so near at hand and we should have got up on the 22^d in tim[e] for the celebration if we had not taken the keel boat in tow

an old frenchman lived on the opposite side of the river got up in the morning and came out and said god dam the steam boat what for he come here in the winter the old man felt hurt for he was a trader and had about all the flour there was in town and was asking 13\$ per barrel but the boat had a lot on board so the old frenchman had to come down a peg on his flour which made the old man swear a little

the capt of the boat got to gambling whilst he was froze up in galena and lost all his loose cash and being tied up there so long made him verry cross and one day he got to scolding me because I was always away from the boat and did not sell anything I got my dander up a little too and went ashore to a merchants by the name of Hempstead that had borrowed my brothers pistols the ones we had used so much at Fort Snelling I did not tell him what I wanted of

them. he let me have them and I went down to the boat with a full determination to give the capt a chalange the 2^d pilot my partner in the barr business saw me with the box he mistrusted from the size and shape of the box what I had and would not let me alone until I told him what I was a going to do with the pistols/# finally I told him I was a going to chalange that old brute of a captain he set his head against it at once and got hold of the pistols and took them back again I told him that I was not a going to stop on the boat to be abused by that old fool of a captain you may go where you like he said but as far your getting into a quarrel on this boat you cant do it as long as I am on it/# So I quit the boat and went to a friend of mine and boarded with him about one week/# from there I went to a public house to live and here I found a man by the name of Holiday he had been sick for a month or more but was now convalessent and was making preperations to go to mining and was to get an outfit from my frie[n]d Mr Tillton one of the late partners of the old columbia fur company/# So I proposed to join in and go halves in all we could find in min[i]ng. So we agreed to go over and see Mr Tillton on the subject. he fell in with the plan at once and we got a lot of tools and bedding and hired a teem to moove us out to the mining countery about the 20th March 1828 We mooved and the 2^d day we went and camped on a branch of the little Platt built a tempora[r]ly shantey and commenc[e]d diggin[g] for lede ore We dug about a month and could find no mineral so we moved our camp further north one days travel onto one of the branches of the Pickatonica here we built a small house out of little poplars and split some long oak shingles and covered our houus [sic] so we

were quite comfortable and comme[nce]d diggin the first hole I dug I found some verry pretty mineral and looked fair for a good lead but on further working we found it was a few scattered lumps and no lead and so we kep[t] on diggin all summer I dug about 200 holes from three to ten feet deep and did not find mineral enough to purchase a plug of tobacco notwithstanding there were some good leads in the neighborhood

A young man by the name of Thos McKnight came and went to diggin nearby us but found nothing of any value also a man by the name of Jones had been mining 4 years and had found comparativeley nothing also a man by the name of Dickson he had three or 4 men hired and two or three black men hired they worked all all [sic] summ[er] and all th[ey] found was about two hundred dollars worth of mineral

My partner and myself bought a prospect of Mr Jones and went on to proove it at [sic] it likeley to be a valuable lead/[#] and a sheet about 8 inches thick lying flat underground about four feet deep was the first of our discoveries in the prospect we had purchased/[#] I had worked myself completeley down and thought I would have a resting spell and I hired a horse and went down to galena a good days ride here I found the old Josephine and advertised for Fort Snelling the thought struck me at once heres a chance to go and see my wife and boy

it happened there was a man from our place or diggings, in town. I got him to ride the horse home again and I embarked on the old Josephine again/[#] capt clark master the old capt and myself had forgotten all of our troubles in former times and we sailed up to Fort Snelling verry friendley together

on our way up the capt told me that when he got back to S^t Louis that my brother had attacked him about the treatment that he had shown me while on his boat and said my brother told him plainley that he the capt was chargeable with all the trouble and difficulty that had risen between us the capt acknowledged that when he got into passion he would frequently said things that he ought not to say and said that I was some what contrary and hard headed too was the reason we could not get along together, and for himself he should say nothing about the matter, although I had once intended to shoot him when the boat was froz[e] in at Galena/#
 after landing
 So there was an end to that affair ^ I went to the capt and asked what my fare was he said he believ[e]d there was something due me from the boat and we will say even So said I and we parted good friends again

I went now in search of my old woman and boy I found them with the old folks where I had left them at Me[n]dota all well and an increase of family a daughter had been added during my absence (now Mrs Pettijohn[])#
 [me]
 they informed^ and had not suffered for any-thing and had been quite happy and comfortable which was more than I could boast of/#
 I concluded to stop a while with them so I stoped about two weeks/#
 I told the old woman I must go again as an opportunity wa[s] offered so that I could get a passage with Mr Bailly. She opposed and wanted I should stay with them She said something might come about ~~that~~ that we could live if we did live poor that was nothing/#
 She had got tired of living alone and there was some traders that were allways an[n]oying her and telling hur that I would never come back &c &c and strongly opposed my going down the river again/#

I told her that I had som[e]business in the mines that I must go and attend to. She said I had been hard at work all summ[er] and had made nothing and she did not see what use there was of working there for noth[i]ng, that I could stay with them and if I earnt nothing I would be as well off if not better, with my family than I would be roveing about. So I agreed to go down and settle up my business and come back and live at Fort Snelling, poor or not, and run the risk of getting employment. So I started with Mr Bailey in a ~~11~~kinaw boat for Galena again. We were onley 5 or 6 days going down.

as soon as I landed I went right off to find my partner Mr Holliday he was glad to see me he said he wanted some help/# I told him I could not stay that I was going back to my family/# this made him haul^[?] down his head for I had allways outdone him at diggin and could dig as much in one day as he would in a day and a half No you cant go he said. I must I cannot leave my family any longer well if you will I will quit also so soon as I can get away So we settled up our accounts and Mr Holliday took all and was to pay all the debts and to give me three hundred dollare if the property sold for enough to bring that amount

Whilst I was absent Mr Holliday had proved up the lead that we had bought of Mr Jones and found^[it] did not much more than pay expense after tak[i]ng of[f] the top mineral the lead took a pitch into the rock in a seam or crevice about half an inch wide/# Mr H worked the hard rock down 40 feet and the lead kept getting thinn[e]r all the way down and at last the rock got so hard and the lead was only was only [sic] about as thick as a knife blade and a great many tools worn out So Mr Hollidy abandoned the lead/# Now he had nothing left but a a [sic] cla[i]m of wood land and a

[sic]
 good place for a furnace[^] left which he sold for 800\$ and paid off
 the debts of our copartnership and remained there all winter until
 the next fall

I left the mines and went up to Prairie du chien with one Mr
 Graham whom I found at galena with a small keel boat fitting out
 to go into the pineries to cut pine logs to raft to S^t Louis We
 got up to Prarie duchien Mr. Brunette who was to assist Mr
 Graham informed him that the Government had forbid people from
 cutting pine timber and that he could not go into the country So
 that broke up the old gentlemans business and left him as poor as
 I was myself and a large family of children to look after

this Mr Graham was a captain in the last war under one col
 Dickson on the British side these two officers took down a com-
 pany of Sioux Indians as far as Sanduskey and they were at the
 battle when Col Crogen defeated the British and drove them off/[#]
 the Sioux Indians and their officers were frightened allmost to
 death when they saw the British falling by hundreds the Indians
 of all nations that were there of which there were a good many
 secreted themselves the best th[e]y could by ferries^[?] and ditches
 and woods &c until the fight was over when the Indians made off
 as fast as th[e]y could and verry glad th[e]y were to get off
 from the awful sight of so many dead and dieing the Indians said
 the sight was awful and the Sioux and and [sic] their officers made
 the best of their way home again having been provisioned and cloth-
 ed by the British at Misillimackinack or Mackinaw.

after I arrived at Prairie duchien I looked round to see if
 there was any chance to get some employment in the Indian trade
 but all the posts were supplied with clerks and interpreters but
 Mr Brunette wanted me to go to Galena and sell some corn for him

and purchase some dry goods for him as he had a number of men at work for him getting wood for a contract for the fort and paid his hands partly in goods. So went work and filled up 2 or 300 bushels of corn and shipped it on the Red rover Capt Throckmorton master and sail[ed] for Galena again and back. Mr Brunette was very well satisfied and sent me back again and I done so well with the corn when I got back he said I must go again.

during my absence from the Prairie my wife ^[came] with her children and her father and mother with her and I found them in their tent near Mr. Brunetts. I had been gone so long they said ~~they~~ they had got lonesome and come down to see what had become of me. The boat was in a hurry to be off so I hurried round and got my folks some provisions and some clothing and told them to go up to the foot of Lake Pepin and there wait for me where my father-in-law's brother lived where there was game and they could live much cheaper than at the Prairie and got onto the steamboat and went down to Galena again and sold another lot of corn for Mr Brunett and came back. Mr B was well satisfied. This was the last trip. Mr Brunette had given me a note to collect for him on a man by the name of Turner ^[?] and told me to sue if he refused to pay. So I went and found the gentleman but he would not pay the note so I sued him but he had been elected to the Illinois legislature and on his way and the law could not stop him [#] so I left the case in the hands of an officer to be attended to after he came back and took his road & I mine.

I loafed about Galena a few days nothing to do about this time one Mr Kurcheval ^[?] arrived there with a large lot of Indian goods. Mr Hunt from Detroit a brother-in-law of Mrs Snelling was in charge. I went to Mr Brunette and asked him to get a few of

the goods and I would go up to the foot of the lake and trade for the winter. So he went and made arrangements for five hundred dollars worth of cloth[els] and blank[elts] and Mr. B. got two large canoes and 6 men and started me off [in] it late in November and cold and we had the had the [sic] hardest kind of work to get up for the ice was runing verry thick before we reached our point for to winter but we got up the men took one canoe and started down through the runing ice and got down before the river closed.

I took my goods and stored them in Mr Grahams house and went out in search of my wife and found she and all the family had gone out hunting upon the river Zombroe or Brushey river. I found them one days march with their unckle they had killed som[e] deer and elk, and had lived verry well and comfortable the next morning we took our luggage and started back to the place where we were to winter we had heavy loads and were verry tired when we got in as we had to carry all on our heads with straps I had no hous[e] for myself and had to fix up our tent to live in through the winter. We put polls and hay all round the tent and made it tolerable comfortable. /# So by storing my goods in Mr Grahams house I had room enough and I boarded with Mr Grayham a few days until I found that an old frenchman that he had was stealing my provisions and giving them away to the opposition traders. We went into breakfast I asked the old man if he had been giving my pork to the men of the opposition he first deni[e]d it but I told him he need not deny it for I had found out all about it from the men of the other hous[e] he then acknowledged that he had taken some before all at the table I turned to Mr Graham and told him that I could not eat with a thief and if he was determined to keep the old thief at the tabelle I could not eat

with them Mr G said nothing so I got up and left the table and the next meal I had cooked and eat in the tent Mr Graham found he could do nothing where [he] was with a large family and concluded to moove back to Fort Snelling again and in a few days 2 teams came for them and they mooved back back [sic] on the ice and I moved into his house and passed the winter.

the opposition had got in a month before me and given all the Indians a credit and sent them off to hunt So that I saw no Indians until they returned from their winter hunts and the moment the Indians arrived the trader went round gathered up all the furs and the Indians had nothing to trade So I made no packs this winter and in the spring I moved up to the head of the lake and lived in my tent amongst the Indians about a month and traded a few furs and sent them down to Mr Brunettes

Whilst I was down at the foot of the lake in the winter some teams[?] arrived there from 'Prairie duchien. a trader by the name of Laframbois was the man from the Minnesota river in the evening they sent for me the clerk of the opposition house a half breed by the name of Piere. Ortabis and Mr Laframbois compliments for me to pass the evening and to play a few games at cards I went over all social having been acquainted before and we sat down and commenc[e]d playing for amusement after a little Mr Laframbois got up and went out and did not return I sat and played until I got tired and no Mr Laframbois came and got up to go home but Mr Ortabis insisted on my staying longer that Mr Laframbois would be in in a moment I began to think that some thing was not right and started and went home found all quiet and no person there but my wif[e] and an old frenchman that had cam[e] up from Prairie duchien and brought a load of provisions

for me I went to bed and went to sleep the next morning my wife asked asked [sic] me why I had staid so long she said that trader Mr Laframbois had been over ther[e] all the evening an[n]oying her/# I started right over to Mr Ortabis and found Laframbois had started at day light expecting that I would be after him So I tackled the other and swore by all that was good that he knew nothing about the matter and that it was not a concerted plan of his So I could do nothing and having no fears of the chastity of my wife the thing~~e~~ had to stop then the Laframboise is one of the persons that my wife complained to me of as anoying her when she was alone and opposed my leaving her alone aney more

in the spring I moved up to Fort Snelling and got an old hous of the Indian agent and moved into it and passed the summer loafing about I [had a] few goods left and let one Duncan Campbell have the most of them to go and trade them at a profit So he went off with the goods and traded a considerable lot of furs and went off, and sold them & kept all the proceedes So I was left flat broke again

in the fall Mr Brunette sent up to see if I had any more furs as he had to settle for the goods I packe[d] up what few I had and went down while I was at Mr Brunettes the fall before I had left my papers that I got of Mr Hollida~~e~~y with him in part payment of the goods and he had sent them down and coll[e]cted the amount and what furs I had/# I cou[ld] not pay up and whilst I was getting ready to go down to see Mr Brunette Mr Holliday arrived with Mr M[c]Knight before named at Mr Langhams the subagent on his way to Missouri he wanted to know why I gave my papers to Mr Brunette did you not promise to keep them yourself I told him

I had promised to keep them as long as I could and that he had been so long making any returns from our lead business that that [sic] I was obl[i]ged to let them go to live Well said he there was not enough cleared to pay all but I paid it and you are som[e]-thing in my debt but I knew this could not be for I knew from the amount receiv[e]d for the wood claim would pay all debts and leave something besides So I never troubled myself about paying him and he never troubled me more about the matter

I set out for Prairie du Chien again and left my wife with her parents again we had a cold boisterous time of it going down/ We went down in a large keel boat and it was late in November the wind blew a gale some tim[e]s so the boat could not move beeing worked by hand sweeps finally a missionary a Rev[er]end Mr Coe in a bark canoe and I got in with him and the man that Mr Brunette had sent up after me and went one day and had to lay too the [wind] blew so hard we could do nothing with our canoe after a while the old keell cam[e] driv[i]ng along before the wind We started and with much difficulty we got on board Mr Coe would go with us/ this was Saturday even[i]ng and Mr. C. said he would not travel on Sunday and went ashore and staid all night at a traders and passed the Sabbath there we floated on down but soon got blowed into some tree tops where it took us til near sundown to get off/ We floated a short distance and tied up for the night

the next morning it was verry cold but calm. We were now near prairie le cross so nam[e]d from the fact it was a fine prairie below the mouth of Black river Wisconsin where the Indians used to go to play ball. Went on very well until we got within about 30 miles of Prairie du Chien We stoped for the night and