



## Collection Information:

**Folder:** Reminiscences, typescript, pages 121-180, 1861?

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

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there cam[e] up a heavy snow storm the next day we had to work in the snow all day and finally got down to to [sic] the Prairie

I went to see my old fri[e]nd Mr Brunette he was glad to see me once more I told him at onc[e] all my troubl[e]s and failure in trade Well he said it cant be helped the goods are paid for but you will owe me something So I gave him my note for the balance about \$130 and he told me I could stay at his house until I I [sic] could find some employment or a chance to go back again/ # in [a] few days after Mr Brunette leased his tavern stand to a frenchman that could neither read or write and th[e]y wanted me to stay and write or keep his books/ # So we went to work but the business soon convin[c]ed me that it would not last long in the first place the proprietor was no manager and another thing there was no travel and no boarde[r]s and the rent had to be paid monthly/ # So the first month the thing failed and th[e]y made a new arrang[e]ment and took in a partner both of the proprietors had been old soldier[s] and th[e]y did not agree long the first one quit and hired to the last one as cook and in fact had done the cooking all the time the other stuck it til spring and cam[e] out about \$200 in debt I quit the clerk business there was so much trouble amongst them and waited an opportunity to get back to Fort Snelling / # What to do I did not know I was out of mon[e]y and no way of earni[n]g any and had none to take back again but I was determined to go if I beg[g]led my way home again / # the french are great people for balls I went once in a while but did not enjoy myself with them and most always went home before the balls were half over

about the middle of the winter an opportunity offered that I



could go back by walking with some soldiers that were going up with the mail and I got ready and started with the company I went to Marsh an old acquaintance of mine in Prairie du Chien and told him my circumstances he took a new shirt and gave me and off I went/ # we before I started I went to shake hands with proprietors of the house the one that had charge first took half a dollar and handed me saying the money was not his. Enough for one meal We went on very well until we got up about the middle of Lake Pepine here I got lame with the rheumatism and and [sic] had to stop and rest frequently but I got up to the head of Lake Pepin some time after the party

here we found a party of soldiers watching a boat load of provisions that had been frozen in in the fall and about sundown two teams arrived from Fort Snelling to get a load of provisions/ # they stayed over one day and let the [teams] rest and asked me to stay and go up with [them] I was very glad to get a chance to rest they had a good warm house and I fared very well and got over my lameness and started up with the teams the mail had gone [e] on the day before

We had not gone more than 8 or 10 miles before in went one of the teams 2 span of mules and 14 barrels of flour sleigh and all were afloat the teamsters unhitched the forward horses of the foremost team as they gone over safe and came back and hitched a chain around a mules neck and pulled him out and so they did to all of them and got them all out safe then the flour had to be got out which was a cold wet job but by hard work all was safely landed on the solid ice and loaded up again/ # When the sleigh went down the teamster and myself were both on the load and had barely time to escape before the load all rolled into the river We hitched up and went at a pretty smart trot

in order to warm up the mules that were [wet] and cold and by night they were all dry and well the next morn[i]ng we started early so we could get home that day and near sun down we once mor[e] saw our old homes once more and heartily glad I was to get back again where I could sit down and be quiet if I was poor and had noth[i]ng to do I was with my familey and at my home

in the spring of the year the agent Major L Taliaferro wan[te]d to set some of the Indians to farming and selected Lake calhoon for the place and told me he wanted me to go and stay there and take as many Indians as would go and settle down the agent was to furnish a team and a man to drive the oxen 2 yoke. No Indians would go at first except my old father inlaw and another old man by the name of Mockpu wechustuh man of the clouds. We did not do much the first year still we raised some corn the Indian agent [e] furnished us with some pr[o]visions once in<sup>^</sup>while and with my gun and fish line made out to live the next sum[m]er several families moved out to the lake and we had to plough about 80 acres that year in order that all might get a piece plowed the teamster drove and I held the ploug[h] We plow[e]d until about the middle of June and quit for it was to[o] late to plant after that time and I had got tired of plowing for it was hard work where it was so rootey this season the Indians raised verry good corn this year about enough to keep them through the winter but by spring the corn was nearley all eat up

this spring I got into some trouble with my old motherinlaw/# an Indian from Wabashaws band whom she called her brother came up to see her and when he started to go away the old woman gave him a bag of rice I opposed saying that she had a large family and



the  
 that she wanted rice more than the man did and told her not to give it away but she persisted and said it was hers and she would give it to whom she pleased I told her again she had a large family and she must [not] give away her food but still stuck too it and I pulled out my knif[e] and told them if any one touch[ed] the bag of rice I would cut it to pieces they then found I was in earnest and the man started off for home no doubt thinking I was a verry hard man the old woman she got mad and picked some of her duds and my wif[e] and all started off down to the fort where the interpreter lived

the old woman had played me a trick once before that I did not like and I had not forgotten it one day she was at my house and when [she] was starting off home my eldest b[oly] cried to go home with her but I forbid him the old woman came and picked him up and put him on her back and walked off I stood and looked with my eyes full of vengeance until she got out of site and said to myself you will not have that child long I was determined to send him below to school the first chance that offered the next day the oald woman returned in the afternoon with all the family

/# here we labored on all summe[r] plowing land for the Indians/#  
 by this time we had quite an Indian town of about 250 Souls # In the fall I went to the fort one day and comeing home I got onto an ox cart that was going to the fells and I had occasion to get off as we were going along and I stepped up by the fore end of the cart to get [on] again when the oxen started and the forend [sic] of the cart struck me and pushed me over and one wheel passed over my body and broke one rib for me the men picke[d] me up and took me to St Anthony where they had a party of soldiers sawing lumber

for the fort one of the soldiers started off for the doctor at the fort as soon as we got up to the falls they came back with the assistant doctor he examined me and said that one of my ribs was broken and I had better go down to the fort

What to do I did not know My wife and children were at the lake all alone I wanted some one to go and tell them of my condition but no one could go So she staid there all alone with her children 2 nights expecting me home every minute but as I did not come towards the evening of the third day she started out in search of me She came first to Mr Quinns my old interpreter here she found out where I was and what had happened she came right down to the fort and found me and in the hospital in the fort where the commanding officer and Doctor agreed to let me stay until I should get well which 18 days after I got well

I got a team and moved back again to the lake and found all of little things safe as the Indians were all hunting none had been about here I set down and passed the winter In the spring I went plowing for the Indians large numbers were added to our band or villag[e] this summer so they numbered now about 300 and they raised a large amount of corn and potatoes and supplied the Indians with a gre[at] deal of corn on the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers and Major Taliaferro made my fatherinlaw and Mockpuvechastah chiefs of the band and here the Indians made great progress in cultivating the soil and allways had a great plenty and had a large amount to sell to the traders

in the month of March the agent sent out two men to stay a month and wanted me to assist them to get out timber enough to rebuild a council house that had been burnt about 6 months before /#



in this council that was burnt is where the missionaries us[e]d to preach as they hapened to come along. Reve Mr Coe some time after I saw him p[r]eache[d] here to these words, do thyse[l]f no harm/# he had heard of the dueling business and gave them a good morrel lesson on the subject. Mr. Coe came [o]ut to my place at Lake Calhoon, and went over to the chippewa country and came near starv- ing to death. once he got lost and got out of provisions but finalley got into fort Snelling and was saved. he was a man of great patience and perseverance and traveled until his age and strength forbid his working in the missionary cause.

We went [to] work and cut tamorack logs enough for the new council house and carried them out of the swamp by hand so the teams could get to them/ to haul them/ here was a month work of hard lifting but we finished it all up completeley and the new council h[ou]s built by the soldiers but never was thoroughly finished and stood so until it was nearley rotten and ready to fall down.

in the fall of the year a new opposition started up. Mr Howard and A. Bailey the man that I had once been in partnership with. So the Amer[i]can fur company went round and hired all the interprete[r]s they could get so that so that [sic] the new company could not get good traders or interpreters nor men that were ac- quainted with the Indians and trade. but Mr Bailey had stole the march on them and got some of the best of the traders before they knew what he was doeing.

One eveni[n]g quite late a man came to me from the american fur company and said Mr Rolette wanted to see me. So in the morn- ing I went [to]see him. he said he wanted to hire me. there was a strong opposition come in aga[i]nst him and he woulde hire me

for three years and give me \$400 a year the same as he gave all his clerks and the object of his hiring for three years was to have enough clerk with[out] runing and hireing every year I found them in the old store house up at Lands End So I hired for three years at \$400 a year and went right and the first thing we had to do was to go to Traverse desieux to fix up things there to meet the opposition the best way we could/here I got news that my brother had left Messrs Powells and gone home to New york state & set up a drug store and got married # I got Mr Roletts canoe ready and two men and myself took him up in 3 days and about 4 hours of the 4<sup>th</sup> day a distance of about 150 miles by the river I was tired almost out when we got up [R?] Mr A was one of the greatest cowards on the water I ever saw he kepe his pocket ha[n]dkerchief tied in a hole in the side of the canoe all the time and he would hold onto it either with one hand or the other all the time I told him I could not swim a rod but I was not afraid for the canoe was large and heavey which made so hard work for three of us to go up in so short a time it generally takes loaded b[o]ats and canoes 5 days to go from Fort Snelling to Traverse desieux we landed Mr Rolette and sta[r]t[e]d back Mr R went on up to Lake Quiparle and Lake traverse making arrangements to oppose the new opposition/ the 2<sup>d</sup> day we got down with our canoe and went to work giving credits to the Indians [got] the Indians more goods this year from the company than th[el]y had got in the three former years for th[el]y got every thing that th[el]y asked for even to large quantities of liquor was given them after all the Indians were outfitted I took an outfit and went over beyond Cannon river to a place called the Bitterns Nest a large lake on one of the branches of the Blue Earth river



Mr A Farribault was wint[er]ing here for the opposition he had got [there] long before me and built and was in a comfortable house when I got there and had given the Indians all a credit and started them off again So when I got there there was not an Indian to be seen I went work to build it commen[ce]d raining the nex[t] day after we got there and I never saw it rain harder in the summer than it rained there although it was late in November

I built a little house for a store house one for my man and then one for myself We had to mak[e] mud chimneys which was verry difficult for the snow had fallen near a foot deep and was verry cold We had to heat all our water to make our chimn[elys] with/# We set up 4 polls then tie sticks across about a foot apart then take mortar and some long grass and make slabs about 2 feet long and lay it over the cross pieces and br[i]ng the two ends together at the bottoms and stick them together and so go on until we go round the square leaving a space in front for a fire place We make chim[n]elys narrow and burn our wood endwise and we make a verry hot fire in this way and generally have verry warm houses as we place the chimney in one corner of the room fronting the whole room and makes more room in the house When the rooms are small we build our chimn[elys] from 10 to 14 feet h[i]gh all of mud and hay or grass with the four polls to hold it up until it gets dry When the polls generally burn out and the chimn[ely] stands by its self and I have used one chimn[ely] for 3 years with a little repairing

here I pass[e]d the winter doing all I could to prevent the opposition from makeing any-thing Sold goods for anything we could if [it] was about half price onley of the value of the goods/# We would sell to keep them from going to the opposition and of course they had to sell at the same rates or th[ey] could not get

any trade in the winter

the Indians at traverse des Sioux about 30 miles west of us they had had a drunken frolick and had k[i]lled one the murder[er] had fled all at once an Indian came into my house as black as black could be made/ the Indian women when th[e]y saw him ran away/ I made some enquiries about the fus[s] th[e]y told me that was the murderer and were all afraid of him I said nothi[n]g to him but gave him some supper and he laid down and went to sleep but at daylight he was off fearful that some of the relatives might be after him an Indian when he commits a murder paints himself all black and puts on the meanest old clothes that he can get and goes that way until the troubles are settled eith[er] by presents or the murder[er] is killed by some of m[u]rdered persons relatives there is now and then a case of murder that is done that is done unbeknown to anybody which is never known and but this does not often happen // here we pass[ed] the winter annoy[ing] each other as we could When we could not do anything else we used to induce each others men to runn of[f] and do all the mischief we could to injure the trad[e] for each other in the spring we took out our packs by <sup>[sic]</sup> my opponent got the most of the trade as he had got into the country long before me and got all the good hunters and of course made the best trade the company sent me back to pass the summer and be ready for the business the next fall So I went off alone and left my family as I had no provisions I did not want to take my family out there to half starve So they went and staid with the old f[o]lks until I should return/ So I went to my old wintering ground and planted some potatoes to have for the winter for I had passed the wint[er] before on bread



and meat which is not verry healthy living Whilst I was out here we heard of the defeat of the Fox and Sauk Indians at the Bad ax and the Sioux that were about got up a great scalp dance in honor of the great victory gain[e]d by the whit[e]s and Sioux Indians.

We had no provisions and all we had to live on was a few fish that we caught in a small net thas we had and we boil[e]d them in water and eat them with a little salt was all that we had for two months

one day as I was sitting out doors hunt[i]ng fleas of which all the Indian traders houses are alive with lo and behold who should present h[i]mself before me was the Indian that I had the fuss with when I first went to trade on the st Peters river old grudges appearantly had worn away and he was quite friendly [I] gave him som[e] turtles eggs and fish and he made a meal and went off and I was glad too see his back for I never liked him after our first trouble when he threatened to kill me at the end of two months I started in to see what was going on with the trades on the way I had to cross a stream thas took the horse up to the back and I got wet and had to travel all day in wet clothes as it [was] misting my clothes did not dry on me and laid down at night in wet clothes,

/# I had an Indian with me for a guide he made a good fire and he roasted a sandhill crane crane [sic] that I had killed during the day every now and then we would hear the whistle of a buck deer ~~they~~ would come out of the bushes and see the ~~fire~~ and start off whistling and blow[i]ng at a wonderful rate

In the morning I felt somewhat unwell but traveled on and got into our depot at Lands End found Mr Labat a Sioux halfbreed in charge /#





on hand was to put it at cost and by so doing which is not often the case for what goods remains over are generalley more or less damaged — but to get rid of Mr Bailly the[y] took all at cost and told him to go as after sending that amount of goods \$30000. dolla[r]s into the country and not mak[i]ng one dollar profit they would embark aney more in the Indi[a]n trade this news made the Indians hang their heads again for they knew that they would have too pay for the feast they they [sic] had for the last year So a number of small posts were broken up and some new ones pushed farther into the Indian country and who should go was the <sup>enes-te-te-pui</sup> question for the new trading posts were far out in the prairies and in a country where there was little game when there was no buffalo Well I was called upon to go to one and Mr Laframbois was ordered to go to another and Mr Bailley to keep him quiet and from inducineg other oppositions coming into the country was made chi[e]f clerk for the Minnesota river and Mendota was made the main depot for the whole Minnesota trade

I was ordered to prepare for crooked river or Big Sioux a tributary of the Missouri and Mr Laframbois was ordered to the same river onley some considerable distance higher up the object of thes[e] posts in this forlorn and barren country was that it was reported that large quantities of beaver were to be found in the big Sioux and its tributaries I went to work getting my equipment ready a part of the rout was by water to traverse de Sioux and from thence in one horse carts Mr Bailly fixed every thing to suit himself goods and provisions and we all shiped in a mackinaw boat for Traverse de Sioux men women and children and Indians some by land and some by water in canoes the Indians that accompanied us for to trap beaver We had to take along a large quantity

of corn to feed them through the winter otherwise th[e]y wou[ld] not go. they k[n]ew the count[r]ly and were afraid of starvation/# the third day out it commen[ce]d raining and we had a tremendous storm and all at once a little before sundown the wind changed from the south east to west and blew a gale for an houre or two and verry cold and it actually froze ice and the next morning there was not a leaf hardly but what was frozen stiff and all the gardens spoiled this in the morning of September 1<sup>st</sup> 1831 We moved on the next morning and in two days more we got up to the Traverse and found our carts and horses all ready— but the horses were poor things and some of them had not been worked but verry little one of them we had to throw him to get the harness on and when he found he was overcome he set up a squealing more like a hog than anything else and gave over struggling and laid quiet until we got the harness on and in fact was quite gentle— after that/# We got all things ready loadeded [sic] our carts 8 in number I had one cart for myself and family and we went off all in good spirits and Mr Bailly returned home from here and I took charge of the whole concern Indians and men and goods there were about one hundred Indians men women and children the first day we got on very well and the 2<sup>d</sup> day went to the crossing of the M[i]nnesota river and found the river fordable and next day got all over and reloaded ready for a start in the morning

We had two french men hunters and I got an Indian to go as guide and hunter both and one of his brothers and a cousin of his went along We went on verry well although we had verry heavy loads and the horses shoulders began to get sore and we had some trouble in getting the horses started from the soreness of their shoulders We worked along until we got upon a branch of the



Cotton Wood river our hunters found some elk tra[c]ks and went in search of them in a little while we heard a gun and in a few minut[e]s another and shortly after a call We halt[e]d and our hunter cam[e] up and said he had killed an elk the men all raised a shout of joy for they had been living on corn meal ground by hand We had taken along a corn mill for that purpose and when we [night] would camp at our corn mill had to be set up regular and every night to grind corn for the mens supper and for the next day not sifted and a verry little grease to season their mush after eating of this corn mush the stomach eventually revolts at the sight of it and some of the men cannot live on it and I will assure you they were glad to se[e] venison once more

I sent a man and horse after the elk they were gone about an hour and came back with the whole buck elk on the horse and it was just as much as the horse could pack and in fact staggered with the weight of the load We put the meat onto the carts and went on to a large lake where we found some good dry wood and camped and staid one day to dry our meat, and such feasting you seldom will see We got our meat dri[e]d a little and started on and in two days we got to what is called the big clump of woods /# it is an island 'is the cause of there beeing timber for the fire could not get to it this shows plainley that fire has been the cause of the most of the prairiees as I have notice[d] in many other places in this countery that where fire could not get to a piec[e] of land that there is verry large and thrifty timber. /# this point is the head of the river desmoin it is a large grassey lake and great place for musk-rat and water fowl consequently a great place for Indians as there is not timber for a long distance to the south and west

at this place I halted and hung my grind stone and ground my axes and allmost made up my mind to winter here but on further reflection I thought I would be better to go to the place where I was ordered whether I made any thing or not as I knew the man that I had to deal with was a kind of self conceited character and if I should fail of makeing a good trade all the blame would be attached to me and the next morning I ordered the teams to be got up and harnessed and ordered each cart to take on a good stick or two of dry wood for we had two nights to sleep without wood and on we mooved again through the wild open prairie once in a while we would pass a buffalo trail from 6 to 8 inches deep old ranges but the animal we had not the pleasure of so much as seeing one

We camped on the head of a little stream running south towards the Missouri We were now fa[i]rly over the great coteau the great and renowned ridge that divides the waters of the Minnesota and Missouri this ridge we could see two days befor[e] we reached it it looked like a blue cloud in the horizon streaching as far as the eye could reach S. E. and N. W. this ridge is from thirtey to forty miles wide and in the mountai[n] or ridge the rivulets of the M. O. and Minn take their rise in a great many lakes that are on the highest part of this ridge and the land is generally verry uneven all over the length and bredth of it and a good place for wild fowl and rats here we discovered a change in the couler of the stone Where-ever we saw any [they] were of a redish cast and had the appearance of granite

the next morn[in]g we moved off in search of water for where we camped water was scarce and the horses could not get enough/# about noon we arrived at the famous place called the pipe stone quarry here we found water but no wood and we camped and dug



pipe stone one whole day we got out a considerable quantity but a good deal of it was skaley and full of seams So we got onley about 20 good pipes after working the rock all day We put in two blasts of powder but did not have much effect this quarry was discovered by the Indians but how and when we never have learnt it is on the head of a little spring branch in fact a part [of] the stream takes its rise from under the same ledge that forms the quarry Where it was first discovered appears to be near the top of of [sic] the ground and runs south and lies flat between two lairs of solid rock that looks like granite the further you go south the deeper it gets also east it runs under the ledge that covers the quarry the north end of the diggins were about 2 feet deep and about ten feet wide and instead of working eastward and under the bank to the ledge they have dug south and when I was there the diggins were about one hundred yards long and at the south end the diggins are about ten feet deep and the pipe stone is about a foot thick but in seems from 1/4 to 3 inches thick in the deep part of the quarry there is more clay and the pipe stone is speckled otherwise pale white spots and some has a deeper red spots and some is a pure red and smooth as marble and fire does not crack it We got out a considerable scaly pieces of which we made some verry pretty flat pipes.

the Indians have labored here verry hard with hoes and axes they only tools they have except large stones which they use for [sic] breaking the rock as the fox and Sauks did in mining for lead with this difference the Fox and sauks used to make fire on the rock and when it was red hot they would dash on water this would crack the rock for some distance round and in this way they discovered some verry large bodies of mineral. but the Sioux used


no fire and could not conveniently if th[e]y wanted for there is no wood nearer than half a days travel the Sioux cl[e]are of[f] the dirt then get stones as large as two Indians can lift and throw it down as hard as th[e]y can and in this way break or crack the rock so they can get their hoes and axes in the cracks and pry out piec[e] after piec[e] it is verry laborious and tedious and costs them considerable in the way of axes and hoes for all they get.

at this place there is a story as related by the Indians by the Indians [sic] that a young warrior gained his lady love by perform[i]ng a feat which many an Indian shrinks from with a terrible dread. a few rods east of the pipe quarry is a perpend[i]cular rock with a crevice in it 3 or 4 feet wide and and [sic] some 6 or 8 feet from this crevice stands a lone rock about 12 feet high about 3 or 4 feet wide at the top and below is all around laying sharp and ugly craged rocks a number of Indians had gather[ed] there tod[i]g pipes and amongst them were a love couple the young warrior had courted the lass for a long time but she did not care much about marrying So she took a plan to try his sincerity as as to whether he loved her or not So she told him she had heard that y[o]ung men had leaped from the main rock to the top of the one standing alone the young man remonstrated and said that he did not believe that anybody had performed the feat and lived but some of the old Indians were called and questioned and said it was a fact that young men had leaped across and back and their statements were confirmed by the[i]r pointing out a quantity of arrows and feathers that th[e]y could see from the main rock / it is a frightful looking [place] the lone rock is about 12 feet high and small at the top and in ju[m]ping across if he should loose his



balance or slip and go ov[e]r and fall amongst the sharp and cragey rocks below a fear[ful] death would be the consequ[e]nce in case a foot should slip it being only about one step across at the top/# the young man saw by what was on the top of the rock some personr persons [sic] had been on top of the rock and th[e]y must of got there by jumping over for there [was] no timber th[e]re to lay over to walk on. When the young man saw that the feat had been performed it gave him courage and he got his medicine out and prayed to the great god of the rocks, Tokon she, to give him strength and courage and dexterity enough to take him safe [o]ver and back/# after his ceremony was over he striped ~~o~~ himself and steped ~~o~~ back a few paces and ran up but stoped the Indians all shouted, then a large numb[e]r made the prairie ring again caward and no girl you dont love her and so on ringed in his ears this made him resolve either to die or succede so the second time he made the leap and went with so much force that he came near going cl[e]ar over for there was nothing to hold onto and all he could do was to jump and stand right where he struck When he got onto the rock he found that there h[a]d been several over before him for every one that jumps over leaves some memorial of the feat performed the most he found were arrows and some balls aft[e]r he was over he found no difficulty in jumping back and claimed his prize and was marri[e]d in love as the young woman now believed as he had gon[e] through such a dangerous feat for to get her

at the qu[a]lrry we found a six pound cannon ball that ~~o~~ Indians had brought there from the Missouri to breadk [sic] the rock in quarrying for pipes this cannon ball the Indians informed us was one that had been fired at the Rickeraws in the time of war with that tribe on the M. O. river

after we had worked the pipe stone quarry until we were tired we made preparati[o]ns to be off as our Indians were getting alarmed for fear of the enemies although I never heard of any of them being killed at the pipe stone quarry in half a day we went from the quarry to the big Sioux river a tributary of the Missouri We camped and looked about for a wintering place and the next [d]ay found a place and camped there and went to chopping and roll[i]ng up log houses We put up some 70 or 80 feet in length and partitioned off as was wanted for rooms the Indians found there was no game and th[e]y all started off for the Missouri and to the Onshaw Village and there th[e]y pass[ed] the winter and made no hunts one or two lodges came in from the prairies and trapped  beaver about two weeks and caught some 8 or 10 they had some dried buffalo meat and several otter skins and whilst th[e]y were the[re] a courtship started up within the camp of prairie Indians and the young man got his friends to purchase the girl he had been courting but the offering was rather a small affair being 2 guns and a few blankets and some trinkets/# they were taken to the lodge of the parents and laid down and their errant [sic] was made known but the father and mother looked upon the offering with disdain and without any further ceremony told the messengers to carry them off/# so th[e]y picked up their dudds and off th[e]y went ashamed as they said the young man took offence at this or at the treatment his messengers had received from the old folks and took his gun and went out and shot one of the old mans horses this raised the old mans pluck a little and he started after the youngster with a short gun in one hand and a war club stuck in his belt and on one hand the old man had but two fingers but he was a brave old fellow and went to the lodge



where the young m[a]n lived and raised up the door the young man saw the old man from the opposite side of the lodge and mistrusted what the old man was after and made a d[i]ve and under the the [sic] bottom [of] the lodge he went and out & before the old man could get round the youngster was off and dodging about amongst the trees so the old man could not get at [sic] shot at his intended mark and the Indians got round the old man and held him until his rage was passed off a little and he went off home to his lodge again the young man staid away all day and at night cam[e] home to his lodge again but the old man was on the look out for him and went back again although the young man had cut a hole in the lodge to look out from the old man had crawled upon them without being notice[d] and raised the door again the fellow inside [got] out again and took to the woods again the old man let go at him but it was dark and he missed and the Indians took the old man home and in short time the young man came back again and took his gun and sent word to the old man and told him if he did not quit his attacks on him that he would go and kill the old man and take his girl and all he had and go off with it/~~h~~ this frightened them and the old man quit with the loss of a horse and in a few days he moved off to hunt in the prairies and we were all peace and quietness again

We went on with out building and got into winter qu[a]rters some time in dec[e]mb[e]r and we got along about living verry well until the ice made then we had hard times all the fresh game that I could get was some hawks that were living about the stream and were fat and verry good onley the name of them would naturally make a person spleeny I used to shoot them and put them on a spit before the fire and roast them and they were verry

good to [a] hungry appetite my men used to shoot wolves for their fresh meat and once in a while a fat skunk the skunks I could eat some of it but the wolves I could not eat a mouthful of them /# they were awful strong far stronger than the skunks meat

all at once we saw a team coming a long distance of[f] in the prairie Who could it be was the word as we were not expecting any visitors and who should arrive but Mr W<sup>m</sup>. Brown one of the old clerks of the Am fur company the company had put in with Mr Bailly to look after things a little for the company never liked Mr. B. as he had given them the slip once before and got up an opposition that made them loose all their profits the year before and something more along with it Mr Brown said he had come over to see what we were doing and what our prospects were for trade &c &c Mr Brown ordered me to follow up the Indians that had gone to the Missouri and try and bring or induce them to come back and hunt beaver and if th[e]y would come back he Mr Brown would insure them a plenty of corn

I started with a cart and two men and one horse and a small supply of provisions the first day we started one of my men killed a small deer and a large buck got away We camped at the falls of the big Sioux here the river is about 20 yards wide but shoal and rapid beeing just below the falls of the big sioux the falls are about ten feet and fall through so many broken rocks and crevices that you cannot see much water about the falls when the water is low in the morning we persued our journ[e]ly on down the river and kept constantly going all day and as the sun was going down we crossed the big sioux below the forks and camped tired and hungry and our deer meat served us well for we had but a small amount of provisions



/# I found that we could not overtake the Indians for from appearances they had not stop stoped [sic] only to camp and had pushed forward to the Missouri which was two days more travel in the direction that we were going that is to the Omahaw Village So I concluded to turn back for I knew the Indians would not leave the Omah[a]ws where there was a plenty of corn deer and some other vegetables where as at our wintering ground there was nothing but mustey corn and no grease to eat with it and the men complained of its having or leaving a burney sensation in the stomach as it was only coarsely ground and not sifted I turned back next morning and came back to the falls and camped the next day we were early at home

Mr Brown started back to Fort Snelling again with a poor prospect ahead for a sucessful trade in that quarter the french man that came out with us to hunt left also as there [were] but few beaver and they all turned their attention to hunting rats/# about the mid[d]le of winter a band of Susseton Sioux arrived almost starved and I had to turn in feed them on two considerations one was if I did not give them some corn they would kill my horses and eat them and then I could not get away from there in the spring for want of teams in case they should kill and eat my horses and another consideration was this was the party that took me prisoner and save[d] my life when I was in the chippewa countery

the old chief Limping Devil told me, do you recollect says he the time when the Indians found you in the woods and rob[b]led you and wanted to kill you and I saved your life Now I want you to help me he said I told him I was willing to go as far as [I] could but he must recollect that I had a good many people to feed

and that he must not think of my feeding all my provisions out to them the old fellow looked surley and did not say much I had a bushel of corn ground and made two larg[e] kettles of mush and sent for all the men and filled their stomachs and told the men to take the balance of the mush and take it home to their children So th[e]ly all had a feast the first day the next day I fed them again then I let them wait a day or two but the old chief came again and said th[e]ly were starving I told him to moove for he would starve us all to death Where can I go he said you see there is nothing but grass and now and then a clump of trees along the river and the band held on for about 2 weeks and I had to cook a large kettle of mush for them every day in order to save my horses and the object of my cooking for them was that all might get a share and by grinding the corn make it go farther

finally the weather moderated and th[e]ly started and you may be assured I was glad to see them off for they were a rough set of customers the weather kept on moderate and the big Sioux river broke up and earley in March the wild fowl made their appearance to the joy of us all for we had been penned up there as you m[ay] call it five months in a land barren and destitute of most all game of any kind I had sent over to the head of the vermillion river a tributary of the Missouri in search of buffalo but none to be found and we saw none nor eat any all winter except a little that I got from the old man that wanted to kill the Indian for shooting his his [sic] horse annd [sic] that was dry and hard and I had to pay two prices for it a cloth blanket for 2 piec[e]s of meat

When the big sioux broke up the water rose so high that we had to move out of our hous[e] and go and camp on the prairiere [sic]



for the water came into one corner of my house and I [was] fearful we would get flooded out entirely and I moved before hand but we had a severe time out on the open prairie a northwester set in and blew a gale and got verry cold and snowed some we were so col[d] that we could not sleep and the wind blew so that we could not cook we staid two days and I found the river would not rise any more I went back to my house and tap[p]ed a few of the soft maples and made a little sugar We had been out for a month the fall came so we began to kill some and began to live a little more [like] white people again and in a few days our Indians came stringing along from the Omahaw Village on the M. O. no furs or game and starving they had given all th[ei]r powder and lead to the Omahaws to feed them through the winter Some of the Sioux had a keg of powder each and in fact they were best fitted for a hunt of aney Indians that I had ever seen fitted out for a hunt and it all amou[n]ted to next to nothing for they did not pay one fourth of their credits and what was worse we had to let them have more powder for the spring hunt or else th[ey] could not hunt in the spring So we supplie[d] them with powder again and th[ey] started for the Minnesota and to hunt as th[ey] went along as there was no beaver of aney amount the Indians went hunting muskrats

in the latter part of April Mr Brown came over aga[i]n to see if he could induce the Indians to hunt beaver but it was no use there was no beaver worth the attention of so many Indians and in fact th[ey] could not live so ma[n]y of them where game was so scarce as I wrote Mr Bailly that the Rock of St Helena was a prefferable point to the one he had sent me too<sup>#</sup> after Mr Brown arrived we moved our quarters to a point called the forks of the upper Sioux river with the expectation of getting some

fish but we got disappointed and after remaining a few days half fed we pulled up stakes as the Indians had all left and there was no trade and no Indi[ans] to be seen or heard of one of the hands while hunting the horse[s] to get them ready to start came upon a skunk and made war upon it at once for to have a feast for the men were all hungry the dog made the first attack and got the first shot from the skunks battery of musk and sent him of[f] howling/# the man then tackled the skunk and he got a shot but the skunk got a blow from the but[t] end of his whip<sup>[which]</sup> leveled mr skunk but the man and dog came home completely used up in the eyes neither of them could hardly see and their eyes were terribly inflamed and firey read [sic] and such another smell we could not bear them about camp and kept them at a distance for two days We got all packed up and started for home once more

the first day we went to the pipe stone quarry and camped and made fire with wood that [we] brought with us from the big Sioux here we stop[pe]d one day and dug pipes but we did not get many it was verry difficult to break the rock and we had/not tools fit for the business So we set out for home as fast as possible/# it set in to raining and we have a storm of three days which made it verry disagreeable traveling for we were in the water from morning til night sometim[es] mired down sometimes crossing streams made by the snow and rain and had to depend upon our guns for a living We frequently killed geese that were setting and the[n] would eat the eggs when th[ey] had young ones in them and the little prairie plover we killed a good many as we walked along by the side of our teams after much fatigue and misery we got back to the Minnesota river again and we had taken the precaution to bring a bark canoe and hide it so we could cross without much trouble



from here we went to Swan lake here we eat up the last mouthful we had but the next day we got into the traverse de Sioux ~~/~~ I forgot to mention one circumstance at big Sioux river we had a son born named Hiram Prescott 31<sup>st</sup> Decr 1831 When we got to the Traverse we had a job to do to get our furs in order a great many of them had got wet and we spent 3 or 4 days in drying them and then took a boat for Fort Snelling or Mendota where the companys post was found found all well Mr Bailley did not feel so well for our trade had not been verry successful and we all turned in and went to making packs and summed up quite a number after all was in for some of the posts had made verry good returns and in [all] they made between 3 & 4 hundred packs

Mr Brown & Mr Bailly could not agree so th[ely] dissolved and Mr. Brown left the countery and went to Millwaukie and settled down there and Mr Bailly continu[e]d the trade So Mr Bailly went down to P duchien to get his supply of goods for another winte[r]s business and left me in charge and left with me a brother of Mr Rolette a drunken crazy fellow ~~/~~ he had been an officer during the last war but had been dismissed for some of his wild acts when Mr B left he left part of a cask of port wine in his cellar this man found it and went to drinking ~~o~~ and he kept crazy for about a week and of all the wicked men I never heared his equal finally I got a man to get into the cellar and pull out the tap and let the balance of the wine run out then we got peace to the house once more.

I promised to send my eldest b[oly] to school and Major Groomes the subagent had info[r]med me that the gov[r]nment had a free school what was called the chocktaw acadamy and that if I would send my b[oly] there he would take him there with pleasure as he

was a going to take two of Mr Bailleys boys all that we had to do was to furnish them clothes and pay their expenses there otherwis[e] going to the place or accadamy [sic] So I agreed to send [him] and got the boy ready and embarked him in the canoe ~~along~~ along with Mr Baileys boys and off th[e]y started all at once I headd a cry behind me and loo[ke]d round and saw my old mother in law a trying to stab herself she had an old dul[l] knif[e] and did not affect her purpose before I got to her and took the [knife] from hur and threw it away in the evening the old woman took a canoe and followed on down the river and cam[e] to the place where Major Groomes was camped and took my boy and walked off with him and brought him back again this made a fuss all round in our family My wife she got mad and went off and I said to myself that my son should not be raised amongst the Indians for the old woman had perfect controll of him when she was about and thought more of him than of any of her own children and as she had served me two or three time[s] before by carrying away my child in opposition to my wish and was makeing a perfect Indian of him I had determ[i]ned that she should not have the controll of him and was deteri[ne]d to send him off the first opportun[il]ty that offered for the old woman had made <sup>[me]</sup>relent the day day [sic] that I had ever taken her daughter

one of my children took sick and my wife in her mad fit because I scolded them for bringing the boy back had kept away for two weeks finally the child got so sick that she was compell[e]d to come back and get the child some medicine but did not come into the house to stop but lived in her lodge some distance from the house with her mother and had the Indians conjuring over the sick child this was the old womans work again and I was tried to the quick to see my children treated in this manner



Still they thought they were right and no doubt thought they were doing for the best but stil~~l~~ th[e]y would not put any confid[e]nce in what I told them about doctoring~~g~~ or the raising of our children

Doctor Jarvis was verry k[i]nd and cam[e] over from the fort several times to see my child and finally told me that chould [sic] could not live and medic[i]ne would do no good as ~~that~~ the child had the dropsy in the head and stoped~~ed~~ visiting When I told the Indians the doctors opinion about the disease of my child the[y] ridiculed the idea and laid the childs complaint to some other Indians as having the power of necromaney to bring in dis-eas[e] when they get offended at each other the child died 8<sup>th</sup> Decr 1832 a few nights before we saw a singular phenomenon in the sky which appeared to be a shower of stars falling <sup>the</sup> from the heavens the Indians had a great crying spell after my child died I asked th[e]m why th[e]y did not cure it as th[e]y had laughed at what I told them about the disease they held down their heads and made no reply So [I] got my child up to the burrying to burry it and Mr rolette was reading a prayer at ths grave and a parcel of half breeds roman catholicks were stand[i]ng off a little distance and laughing at us as they never had seen a funeral in that form befor[e] and of a Protestant feature ~~o~~

in a few day[s] Mr Bailly arrived with his goods and all was buisey ~~o~~ in making up outfits for the winter trade and I was to remain for interpreter for Mr Bailly for the winter and my family had no house room about the fort So we had to go to Lands End and stop and I had to walk up and down every day a distance of 2 1/2 miles making 5 miles a day to go to and from my work this I had to do because Mr Bailey had no accomodation

about him and a miserable revengeful wife <sup>[sic]</sup> Murs<sup>A</sup>Bailly a half breed and my wife a full blood had got into some trouble about one of our little girls Mrs Bailly wanted one to live with her and help nurs[e] the[i]r children and my wife let Lucey go but she had not been there long before she got a whipping of which Mrs B was remarkably fond of whipping other peoples children So my wife took her d[au]ghter away this offended Mrs. B. and it was so arrang[e]d that I could not have a house for my fam[i]ly and was the cause [of] my traveling to lands End and back every day

and whilst I have been speak[i]ng on the whipping business Mrs B had a little black child raised in the fam[i]ly and a young Sioux girl those two children I actually bel[i]eve would get from 25 to 50 lashes a d[ay] and som[e]times more every day ~~nearly~~ almost and I frequen[t]ly would leave the hous[e] to get away from the miserable crying of those children When she was cowhiding the[m] I felt the reproach and the trouble and misery I had for trifling revenge but I stuck to my work all winter back and forth and final[l]y winter ended I got a house after Mrs B had gone to P. Duchien and I got the use of her kitchen for myself and fam[i]ly and Mr Bailly went below and left me in charge again

this summer brought about another opposition in the person of Mr B. F Baker the gentleman that I brought up the Mississippi when I first cam[e] up to trade with the Indians

this summer the cholerea raged throughout the world and a great many peopl[e] died on the Mississippi a partey of canadians were com[i]ng up the Mississippi there were some 40 or 50. and the cholerea got amongst them when th[e]y were between



P Duchien ar[ou]nd lake pepin and when th[ey] got to the grand encampment about ten miles below Lake pepin th[ey] commen[ce]d dieing ~~but~~ but th[ey] were out in the open healthy air and but few of them died and they worked their way up to Fort Shelling where they got medicine from the Doctor of the fort

about this time the traders up at the little rapids had got out with the Indians on account of high prices for goods as there had been no opposition for 3 years the Indians had to pay for the past good times th[ey] had when there was an opposition for then th[ey] got goods cheap the Indians of Little rapids were mostly rovers in the prairies and followed the buffalo for a living and had suffered a good <sup>[d]eal</sup> for the want of am[m]unition/# the traders would not give them powder on credit and when th[ey] sold anyth[ing] charged a verry great price and the Indians were drove into desperation they shot and sever[ely] wounded a man by the name of Labat but as he did not die there was nothing done about it the[y] fled to the Missouri and that was the last of it this gave the other Indians encouragement and some time one of them stabbed old Mr Farribault in the back but the old gentleman recover[ed] the I[ndian] ran off to the M[i]ssouri and noth[ing] was done about it Mr Farribault had refused to let the Indian have a credit and out with his knife and gave him a dig in the back but it all passed off without further trouble

the summ[er] passed off without any particular incidents and Mr Bailley arrived from below with his winter supply and brought the old notes that my broth[er] and I had given to settle up our old copartnership business first Bailly & Prescott, and again Brunette and prescott I paid them all up in full \$280.

and stood clear of the world onc[e] more again, and I thought of  
 startineg<sup>[sic]</sup> my boy off to school again as Major Grooms was about  
 starting for the East So I got my b[o]ly ready again and put  
 him in the canoe and sent him of[f] to the choctaw acadamy but  
 this time my famiely did not make aney visable            signs of  
 opposition but I was told the old grand mother took on terribly  
 about it

in the fall my time was out and I went over to Mr Baker and  
 asked him if he would trust me with some goods to trade up at  
 Traverse desieux he was verry glad to get me and we made our  
 arrangements and I went back to Mr Bailly and told him my time  
 was up and I wanted a settlement I had been sleeping in their  
 sitting room after his wife cam[e] back with a sick child I  
 had to give it medicin[e] in the night several times and it was  
 damp and cold in the lodge to which we had moved after Mrs. B  
 came back but I asked Mr Bailleys permission to sleep in the  
 sitting room on the floor and be off early in the morning out  
 of the way but this did not suit the madam and she ordered other-  
 wise and we had to sleep in our lodge with our sick child but  
 thanks be to providence my son stil           lives but she has gone  
 to her long home.

Mr Baley asked me why I went to the opposition to get  
 employment I told him he had made me no offer so I had accept-  
 ed the first opportun[il]ty to get employment Wel           said he  
 if [I] will give you employment will you stay with me I said  
 yes knowing that he could not employ me otherwise I should  
 have said no the company had more clerks than th[e]y knew how  
 to employ and I knew I was the first one to let go therefore I  
 made my arrangements with Mr Baker without saying anything to



Mr Bailly but Mr B made no proposition So I went off over to Mr Bakers and bid the amer[i]can fur compa[n]y goodby for ever

Mr Rolette cam[e] up in a few days and he gave me an order on Mr Miric the sutler at the [fort] for the balance of my pay which was about \$130. I purchased some goods and got a little mon[e]y and got clear of them and went to work and got my equipment ready for the winter trade, and myself and Mr H. Moore whom was getting goods at the same place put our goods all into one boat and started off for a new business on our own account

I stopped and built on the bottom or low land opposite Traverse des Sioux Mr Lablar[c] and [sic] old frenchman that I have before mentioned that could neither read or write was trading for the A. M. Fur company on the opposite side of the river but he had been there several years and had good hewed log houses both warm and comfortable and was built far from the river where the spring freshettes could not reach him but some of the old mans clerks got caught once in the bottom opposite to his house they were over one day hunting ducks the bottom was all overflowed and is about 15 miles long and from one to two miles wide this whole bottom was under water and these two men that were hunt[i]ng ducks Messrs Farribault and D. Campbell were the persons they capsized their little hunt[i]ng canoe and there was no land that th[e]y could reach and they climbed a tree and then stood all night calling for help one Indian heard them and started in a little hunting canoe to go to them but the wind was blowing verry hard and the swells ran verry high and upset the Indian and he drowned the next day the Indians about ten oclock got over to them and relieved them of a most distressing situation not only

the position they had to be in all night but their cloth[e]s were all wet and the night was verry cold and th[e]y had to keep on the move all night to keep from freezing they said th[e]y were sick for a week after the occurrence

here I passed the winter and made a very good trade and cleared about one thousand dollars. I made a large black walnut canoe in the spring and in two trips I got all my furs down and went down and passed the summer in traveling I went out with a surveying party to run a boundary line between the Sioiux [sic] and chippewa Indians according to treatay stipulations I was hired to go as interpreter for the troops Mr D. Campbell went as interpreter for the surveying party and Mr J Johnson was to go as interpreter for the chippewa language but did not join us until we got the [sic] near the end of our journey the party was under charge of Major Bean he [had] once been lieut in the army and an agent for the Missouri Indians but by some move had got out of them all and had now taken this contract to surv[e]y the boundary line between the two nations I started up in a mack[i]naw boat with a party of soldie[r]s and a serjeant and a lieut and another party had gone up by land and we all arrived at Sauke rapids together or all in the same day and the first river above this point call[e]d the Little Watab or the river where th[e]y get the tamorac roots to sew canoes with We had some hard pulling to get our big mackinaw over the rapids and in fact we had to put in two yoke of oxen to pull the boat through the stro[n]gest part of the rapids finally we got all over and went and camped where the line was to cross the river and got the wagons and carts and all the other things ready from [sic] the tramp and the next day we crossed the river and



the soldier[s] camped but the surveyors were not ready but crossed the next day and took their latitude &c and the next day we got und[e]r way and made about ten miles up the Sauk river and camped /# here we had to change our course and go west in order to strike the head of Watab river which was one of the points on the line So off we started right into the brush so thick that we could not see 5. rods ahead the teams and wagons and even carts could not get along and we all turned in and went to cutting around [ ] and we all worked hard all [day] and at night went back where we started from in the morning and camped

after we had got our suppers and the su[r]veyor looked over his days worke he aske[d] how far we thought we had came that day some some [sic] said 5. some 6. som[e] ten miles and so on Well said the surveyor we just made one mile Everybody looked astonished and could hardly be made to believe that that was the case Well the contractor said that never would do for him for he would be ruined if he did not get along faster than that and in the morning ordered the surveyeors to take two mules and pack them and two men to lead them and go straight through the woods and the main party went round by the Sauk river and the prairie and in that way we got along verry well for 4 or 5 days when we cam[e] to the woods again here ther[e] was no chance to go round so we left all the wagons and carts and left 2 men to take care of them at a large lake where th[e]y caught a large amo[u]nt of fish We pack[ed] all the horses and mules and followed the surv[e]yers through brush and swamps from mo[r]ni[n]g til night and in fact we were wet all day long

one night we camped on the head water of long prairie river where there was a lake with an island about 3 or 4 hundred yards

from shore on which we could discover a large quantity of fowl ~~from~~ but could not distinguish what th[ey] were. So some of the soldier[s] volunteered to swim over to them and over th[ey] went 4 or 5 of them and found a roost of cormorants and th[ey] knocked down about 100 of the young and tied th[e]m together and dragged th[e]m to the lake and put th[e]m in the water and walked and pulled thei[r] game after them until th[ey] could no longer touch bottom where th[ey] began to swim and re[ach]ed the s[h]ore but th[ey] said th[ey] found it verry hard work for there was considerable grass in the lake w[h]ich impeded their progress. as soon as th[ey] landed th[ey] all set to work to pick[ing] thei[r] birds and th[ey] made a great stew out of them but they tasted so fishey that nobody relished them.

When the surveyors came in they reported th[ey] had seen some Indians on the opposite<sup>[sic]</sup> of the lake. We all went to bed as usual and the next morning the men went out to look for their horses/# th[ey] had not been gone long befor[e] the[y] returned and reported one mule dead and another badley stabbed/# there was a fuss in the camp and we expected to be attacked and got ready to fend off the best we could and all sallied out to see if we could find the depredators but nothing was to be found but the horses. So the contractor had the other mule shot to put it out of misery. We got ready and started a[s] soon as possible and left the mules for the Indians to eat. We learnt about a year afterwards it was the chippewas/# they took us to be Sioux Indians was the reason they killed the mules but I doubt this statement for our tents were plain to be seen which are so differ[en]t from the make of Sioux that th[ey] could not be mistaken and I believe it was nothing but wanton mischief that made them stabb the mules which embarassed the con-



tractor a good [d]eal by lading his other animals verry heavy and made all their backs sore

We went on without seeing any Indians. the woods were so dense that some one mos[t] every day got lost. I amongst the rest got lost one day and probably should have been tr[ou]bled verry much to get back or forward as I had got off of the track and did think I was lost for some time aft[er] a while I gave a hoop but no answer again & again but no answer Now I found that I was lost and fired my gun off but no answer Now I thought the thing was up and a thousand plans were in my he[a]d all in a moment and which was the best. I stood a few moments but heard nothing I fired my gun again and shortley after I heard a gun a long way off I fired again and heard two more and made off in thier<sup>[sic]</sup> direction after a while I fired again and got an answer close by and in this way we got together again and after this I stuck pretty close to the party the contractor Major Bean complain[e]d and said I had made him loose nearley a whole day. and we went on and camped We found the next morning that we had got into a swamp and no way of crossing and we had to go round about 15 miles to get back where we left in the morning or opposite the width of the awamp was only about 50 yards but so deep that we could not wade or ford it We took our course again and went to the edge of the prair[i]e the next day and crossed the chippewa river in the prairie about two days travel from Laquiperle here we turned our coarse for Ottertail lake nearly due north and got in amongst some lakes and where to go we did not know and hunted about three days for a place that we could get between the lakes

Whilst we were in this quandry Mr Johnson came up with two chippewa Indians all were glad to see them for we were at a stand

still and knew not where to go. So the chippewas soon put us right and in two days we were at Otttertail lake the most northe[r]n point. the lake is ten miles long and one clear sheet of water and a plenty of fish. from this point we came back down to the outlet of the lake and took our course down the river.

the first day we got lost. We treed, [sic] 2, young bears. the men all had sport in shooting with their pistols, at the little bears and then again a great feast of the meat. Lieut Storer who had command of the soldiers sent a not[e] to Major Bean the contractor notif[y]ing him that that [sic] he could not go any further and gave for excuse that the the [sic] soldiers were out of shoes and clothes and the rations were low and for that cause the troops could not procede any further. here wrote back and forth half the night and in the morn[ing] Lieut Storer ordered the command to pack up and return and I will assure you the party were all well pleased for we were all tired and ragged and glad to get off but Major Bean said it would ruin him for the Govt would not pay him for what he had done. Mr or Lieut Storer said he did not hinder him from going on/<sup>#</sup> the major insisted that he was ordered to go through to the end of the line. yes said Lieut Storer my men cannot goe bare foot and without food and gave the order to march and off we all started. in about half an hour they the surveyors caught up with us. Mr Bean had thought it was not well to try it alone with his party and followed on after us and run his correction line as he went. but from that time they did not speak to each other and th[ey] had not spoken to each other for about a week before they arrived at this place about three miles west of Otttertail lake on the waters of the river that runs out of that lake but is called the South fork of Red river and runs



down by Lord Selkirks settlement in the north We made out back as fast [as] we could Lieut. Storer had got out of all patience he had been lateley marr[i]ed to one [of] Mr Rolettes d[a]ughte[r]s of P. Duchien She was quite unwell when we left and Lieut Storer was verry anxious to get back on her account We got back to the Mississippi and the Lieut took his boat and left the party to finish up their surv[e]y by themselves as there was no further danger of beeing molested by the Indians and in 8 hours we run down to the falls and footed it down to the fort here ended another expedition that was of no benefit to the government or to the Indians and the Indians destroyed all the land markes th[e]y could find and in a few years a treaty was made that made the lines and boundaries of no use or necessity to either party

about this time some chippewas cam[e] down with some trades to get some goods at Mr Bakers store. the Sioux had been out hunting som[e]where up north of the Minnesota river and the chippewas had com[e] across them and killed some of them and th[e]y were determined to have revenge and now was their chance and th[e]y hid th[e]mselves in the bushes near the houses towards sunset and as one of them was going from one house to the other the Sioux 4 or 5 in numb[er] fired on him and killed him and the[n] ran up to scalp him the chief Hole in the day heard the fuss and ran out and just as he got out the Sioux were in the act of scalping the chippewa. the chief fired his ball struck one of the Sioux in the mouth knocked out three teeth and came out at the back part of the lower jaw and [he was] supposed to be mortally wounded but he got away and ran to Mud lake a distance of two miles in about 15 or 20 minutes time here was a great commotion again in the whole community the soldier[s] were order[ed] out after the Sioux/#

the Sioux and chippewa half breeds were b[a]rricadeing their houses and all kinds of preperations were made for war the soldie[r]s returned but could not find the depredators the chippewa as was supposed was found to be a Coutire or Cut .Ear. from some of the tribes about Mackinaw a half civilized peacible nation that had marr[i]ed a Pillager chippewa woman and lived by boating and voyageing for the traders the govt officers took the body and buri[e]d it in the grave yard near the fort the Sioux so enraged to think the whites showed so much respect to their enemies that they went in the night and dug open the grave and cut a hole through the coffin and shot the dead body full of arrows and went off and left the grave in that situation they sent out and had another hunt from the fort for the mischief makers but could find nothing. they had all fled for the upper country So the thing passed over by the whit[e]s but the spirit of revenge which never slumbers in the breast of the Indian was not composed and onley an opportunity to get satisfaction which offered one year after but a dreadful calamity followed upon the heels of the continuance of this revengeful spirit which I shall relate in its proper time in this work

We got our ou[t]fit ready We set out in our old boat and I had, Rev Mr Riggs in and lady in comp[an]y with me We went into the little rapids and camp[e]d over the Sabbath here I was tempted all day long by the Indians to trade I told them it was the Great Spir[i]ts day of rest and to pray and I could not work nor trade this was a new thing to them and [they] could not understand anything about the object or pri[n]ciple of the sabbath but I kept them until next morning when I traded their furs and went on with my Miss[i]onary family and got up to wintering grouend the



5<sup>th</sup> day

Rev S. R. Riggs was missiona[r]ly for the Sioux and was stationed at Lacqueparle wher[e] Dr. T. S. Williamson had lived several years and th[ely] were changieng<sup>[sic]</sup> posts thus they might be equal partakers of the privations of an Indian life and manners and customs

and speaking about the miss[i]ons when I was going up a few years before with Mr Bailly the trader I took out some tracts and went to reading one day as we were going up in the boat. Mr. B. looked at me and asked me what I was reading I told him some tracts he commenc[e]d swearing and said do [you] want to sink my boat I said no Well he said if you go to reading those papers on my boat I am sure she will sink before we get up Mr Bailly is a roman catholic by cre[e]d but in spirit is an infidel

I unloaded my boat and moved into my old house of last winter and went to work and gave my Indians some credit and they went off and k[i]lled furs enough to pay the[i]r first credit and took more credit for the winter this made me short of goods and I had to send for more to Mr Baker at Camp Cold Water near Fort Snelling the old summ[er] encampm[e]nt of the troops when th[ely] first mooved up to build the fort

I had but one man so I put him into a canoe and sent him off with an order for what [I] wanted and to hire a man to help up with the canoe and load the man went down and got his load and the first night th[ely] camped near the fort and made up a plan to steal the goods and run off So they took the heavy things and hid them in a manure heap about the fort stables amongst the things hid were three Indian guns some axes and a corn mill and the dry goods th[ely] sold about amongst the soldiers for a little or

nothing and put off down the river and Mr Baker did not hear of it for 2 weeks he immediately started a man up to me with a few more goods to inform me of what had transpired

I had been waiting verry anxious about my man for nearly three weeks never dream[ing] of his having run off for he had a squaw and she was living in a lodge nearby my house and I thought certa[in]ly he would come back to her again but he was too much of the old [sic] soldeir<sup>A</sup> for us all as he had been an old soldier in the army he had learnt many bad tricks and this was one of them stealing I supposed all the time he was sick or some accident had happened him when all the time he was in Prairie Duchien living on what he had stolen from me

I got Mr Baker to advertise him and offerred a reward of \$25. he was apprehended and put into prison and kept there for three months but I did not go to prossecute the case and he was set at liberty and he threatened vengeance for fals[e] imprisonment but he never tried it and left the country after hav[ing] made [me] loose \$350 this made a big hole in my profits for the price of furs had gone down verry much Muskrat declined three 300 pr cent or rats that were worth the year before 40 cents were now worth only 10 cents So [I] concluded to pass the winter alone and went to chopping my own wood for the winter this I found pretty hard for I had never chopped much but in a few days my hands got hardened and the blisters all healed up and in one month I had wood enough for the winter chopped<sup>/#</sup> about the time the old folk[s] my wifes father and mother arrived from below to pass the winter with a sick daughter and a few days after we receiv[e]d a letter from the choctaw academy stating that my son was dead this set the old folks wailing at a terrible rate and if one of there [sic] own



children had died they could not and did not take on so much as was proven a few days after when their daughter died. My son [it] appears from the letter we got died of bilious pleurisy & the old folks daughter of abscess in the side internal. I never heard such wailing and weeping the woods fairly resound[ed] for mil[ls] around from the bellow[ing] of the old man and woman at the death of my son. I felt bad at the thoughts of the circumstanc[es] and the troubles and the cause of my sendi[n]g him off but I thought of the gr[e]at Ruler of the Heavens and the Earth and that the Lord had taken what was his own and though[t] probably my son had been save[d] some other calamity and that God had foreseen this and had taken him home before some great trouble overtook him and I bore up with the affliction better than those that have no hope and believing that some day I should [meet] my son again in peace but my poor Indian relations had no hope and therefore could not be comforted and mourned at a terrible rate for more than a year after the death of my son.

I learnt the situation that my son had been in at the choctaw academy. Major Grooms had spoken of the institution in the most glowing terms and said he was very glad to get the chance of send[ing] his sons to the academy and told me it would be a good place for my son. The follow[ing] is what I was told by Mr Balleys boys that went to the sam[e] place at the same time that the children got only one meal a day and if th[ey] got anything more they had to go and beg of the cook. Som[e]tim[es] they would give a little and sometime not and would have to go from noon until the next morning before th[ey] could get anything to eat and th[ey] were only half clothed and in fact they said the Indians children amongst the wild savages were better cared for than they

were When I heard of this my blood run through my veins first cold and then hot with revenge at the old Major Grooms who had told me all about the choctaw acadamy was so nice and pleasent and the children were so well cared for if I could have got my eyes on him nothing could have kept me off of him My son whilst he was sick had no nursing at al and when he would cry for water the old brute of a negro woman would whip him for crying for water and food I never shall forgive myself for sending my boy off to school amongst strangers but the old woman was the cause She allways would vex me by takeing the boy and carrying him home with her I told her she never should have him and in in [sic] retaliation for my rashness to keep my son from the old woman he is gone from both of us and many is the hour I have passed in sorrowing over the miserable death of my poor boy away amongst stra[n]gers and but little better treated than the brute beast. O. shame on a government that would have an institution of that kind and have no person to oversee the business and see that the children did not suffer but death relieved him from suffering and God in his wisdom took him on purpurpose [sic] to take him out of misery and brutal treatment and [he] is now better off we hope than his persecutors and may God be praised for his goodness and wisdom for delivering my child from tyranical hands and I do not say anything more about Major Grooms onley I hope the Lord will reward him according to his deeds in deciev[i]ng me in the manner he did in getting my child off to school where there was neither regulation nor food a poor bed and nothing but negro shantiees to live in and for this the govt paid Mr Johnson \$25,000. twenty five thousand dollars a year a complete game of swindleing at the expense of poor in[n]ocent and suffering children the



thoughts of the thing is enough to chill any ones blood, and I must draw the vail to relieve my mind from the subject

the old folks had not been there long before their daughter died verry suddently [sic] the absess broke inwardly and she died instantly but the old folks did not make half the mourni[n]g that th[e]y did over the death of of [sic] my son

the sudden death of this young girl set me to reflecting about my future state and what would become of me if I should die suddenly and without repentance I should loose my right to the promises of God of eternal life and be barred from enjoying that bliss offered to all the [sic] repent and turn unto the Lord the two deaths so close one upon the other made me reflect seriously and the longer I went the more I thought on the subject and commen[ce]d praying in secrut and finally made up my my [sic] mind to join the church and I found no peace until I did make up my mind to do something and I kept on at my work through the winter hauling wood and trading and at last spring came and I comm[enc]ed making my packs and it comm[enc]ed thawing and raini[n]g the water commen[ce]d rising and rose so much that it came all round my house and I was afraid of being flooded out of my house and I moved all my packs and put them on a scaffold out doors but the weather set in cold and the water fell again and staid low and we got down in safety, myself and wife alone.

I passed the summ[er] out at Lake harriet where the missionaries live Messrs S. & G. H. Ponds and Mr Stevens the Messrs Ponds had lived allready 2 years alone before Mr Stevens cam[e] up there but after Mr. Stevens. came th[e]y all joined together for a year or two and kept a missiona[r]ly school &c I built a small house out [at] the lake also and during the summer joined the church

and lived happy and comfortable under the influence of religion and wrote my brother at Vienna state of N. Y. of what I had done/# he wrote that he thought I would or had sold my all for a pew in Heaven or that the religious people had persuaded me to join them to get something from me and he thought the whole was a chimera and I had better leave them I think [that] was about the amount of what he wrote me but his advice did not jarr me in the least and I stuck to the work of prayer and believe I never shall be sorry for the step I took in joining the church for repentance and faith had got fast hold upon me and I was determined to live by it and I never have seen the time yet but what I could say I wanted more of the love of God and a better or greater desire to serve him and my Savior

during this summ[er] a large number of chippewas come down to visit the Sioux by invitation of the Sioux the chippewas stay near two weeks feast[ing] and counselling with the Sioux Indians and there were judged to be about 1000 ch[ippewas] men women and children and as th[ey] were leaving two Pillagers relations of the man that was killed by the Sioux the summ[er] before went out to Lake Calhoun to see if th[ey] could get a scalp they said the Sioux owed them one and th[ey] went and placed themselves on a trail that leads from Lake Calhoon to Shack about half a mile south of Lake harriet or a mile and a half south of Lake Calhoon and hid themselves in the bushes after a while an Indian came along by the name of Neka one of the best Indians in the Lake Calhoon band as he passed th[ey] the two chippewa Pillagers shot him and took his scalp and made off the news spread in half a day all over the country and the next morning the Sioux to the number of about 300 were off on a war excursion/#



they traveled all day and all night and just at daylight they came up with the chippewas a part had gone by rice river and somey [sic] by the Mississippi and some by the St Croix those that went by Rice river were mostly Mill Lac Indians and were going to make a portage into Rum river and had just crossed a lake and was carrying their canoes and baggage across the portage when the[y] attacked them and killed of men women and children 30 odd persons the chippewas were surprised and could not account for the conduct of the Sioux as th[e]y had parted all in friendship only two days before the chippewas fought braveley to save their children and the Sioux lost fifteen of the[i]r braves and the party that went by St Croix Little crows band followed them and attacked them about the same time the battle on rice creek they killed about 20 chippewas /# so that in about one hours tim[e] there was one hundred chippewas and Sioux slain for the mischief of two chippewas if the chippewas had notified the others th[e]y would have been on their guard and got out of the way but as th[e]y knew nothing of what had taken place they were traveling along verry unconcerned thinking of no danger until th[e]y heard the warhoop and the next thing a discharge of guns and the shrieking of the women and children the chippewas fired and retreated and saved a large part of their women and children the next morning the Sioux arrived with the[i]r scalp th[e]y made a great show and parade over their success and danc[ed] a while and went off home to their villages to spend a month in dancing the scalp dance

the chippewas that went by the Mississippi got off without being attacked by the Sioux the ones that deserv[ed] chastisement the most if any were the ones that got off with a whole skin

for there is no doubt but the two men that killed the Sioux went and joined that camp and probably had the scalp at the time the ~~innocent~~ ones were selling their lives at a dear rate

I got my winter supply of goods and went up with Mr More ~~and~~ again in his boat but I had to go for the boat first from fort Snelling to a place called the little Rock upon the Minnesota/~~#~~ I had first to go in a canoe to Traverse des Sioux in a canoe then I footed ~~it~~ it from there two by land making in all about 6 or 7 days hard work to get a boat and then five days rowing to get back and then had to row back to Traverse des Sioux again which kept me pretty buisey all the fall to get my work round in time

this season the Indians had been to Washington and made a Treaty and sold all their lands on the east side of the Mississippi and returned home the fore [sic] November one old chief got crazy and jumped over board and was lost in this treaty the Indians gave the traders ,a, hundred and ten thousand dollars and the halfbreeds \$90,000

I made my way up to my old wint[er]ing ground I made good returns but the furs were worth nothing of any account and I lost mon[e]ly and Mr Baker lost so much that he had to suspend business for he was so much in debt that the Messrs Powels would not trust him any more

I had been quite sick in the winter and I wrote down and got Mr Samuel Pond to come up and keep house for me whilst I should go down and see the Doctor So Mr Pond came up and I went down and staid a month and came back and Mr Pond went up to Lacquiparle to see Dr Williamsons family he suffered verry much going up he told me Still the Indians do not appreciate their sufferings to try and teache them how <sup>[to]</sup> live like white men and all the Indian



appear to care for is something to eat and religion and farm[i]ng is the last thing in their minds and there is a plenty of white men to keep them in ignorance and use all their influence to thwart the moral and civ[i]lizinng the Indians I bought Mr Baker out and he agreed to furnish me with goods and passed the sum[m]er and made a little at trade Mr [Baker] after hav[i]ng give up the Indian trade went into the sutling business and commenc[e]d a large saw mill at a place called Tailors falls on the St Croix and spent some 4 or 5 thousand dollars and was taken sick and the trouble about his business being verry much embarrassed he went to St Louis and died of consumption this broke up all his business and all his traders were left out of employment again

I lived in his house during the winter and towards spring I had one offer from the officers of the fort to go down to the St Croix and take charge of a claim th[ey] had taken up for a town site they agreed to furnish me with one thousand dollars to build a house and a store house with. and give me one eighth of all the land and buildings I had noth[i]ng to do so I accepted their offer and went to work and got the body of my house up and went home to see my family and while I was gone a man by the name of C. D. Foot a carpenter of the St Croix mill company came and jumped my claim I went to law with him about the right &c the case ~~right~~ was brought before J. R. Brown Esqr Justice who lived on what is called Gray Cloud Island and had a whisky shop up near fort snelling where he kept a man by the name of Menck an English man to peddle the whisky for him this establishment was an eye sore to the officers for the soldiers used to go there and get whisky and get drunk and made a great deal of trouble for them

and the Indians used to go there and get whiskey and kick up a fuss and this was the cause of the citizens all beeing drove off from the reserve J. R. B.s whiskey shop for none others kept any but him and to get rid of him they commandi[n]g officer had orders to move all persons off that wer[e] not there by authority of law that is Indian traders under a license and it is verry likeley if Mr Brown had not of established a whisky shop in the vicinity of the fort that the citizens never would have beeh drove off from the reserve by the military for this liquor trafick gave the offic[er]s a great deal of trouble one daey the Indians went over to the whiskey shop and broke all the kegs and poured out the whisky/# this was all charged upon the Indian agent and a warrant was procured from Dubuque for his apprehension and one night about midnight the sheriff and the man <sup>[Mink]</sup> Minck <sup>^</sup> cam[e] to Major Taliaferros room and were adēmitted and they took the agent and held him down to his bed for some[time] and extorted some promises from him and kept him in until morning when the Majors servant went to the fort and told the command[i]ng officer he sent an officer to enqu[i]re into the matter and found that a sherriff and Mr Meek Minck had seized the agent with a warrant for getting the Indians to break up

x Minck liquor establishment/# the commanding officer sent a guard out and had the sheriff and Mr Minck march[e]d off over the river and forbid [them] to put their feet on this side the river again/# this made a great talk about the military disregarding the civil law and aiding to take prisoners from the custody of the sheriff but it blew over and after a while another one tried the whisky trade again by the name of McDonald a frenchman

he came in the fort one day and was taken and put in the guard house and kept there a month and was not let out until he



promised not to bring any more whisky there to sell to the soldiers/# he promised to do so and this put a stop to whisky selling to the soldiers but in about a month after a sheriff appe[a]r[e]d there and took the comma[n]d[i]ng officer for imprisoning a peaceable citizen &c but the officer ordered the sheriff out of the fort again and he went off without any prisoner and that case went by the board and the whisky trade was stopped for a time but the people that had been drove off of the reserve at the point of the bayonet had commenc[e]d at new [sic] below the line of the reserve now St Paul and the traffick commenc[e]d anew and increased up to the present time, but St Paul would have been somewhere about where ~~St~~ De Fort Snelling is if the citizens could have rema[i]n[e]d where th[ey] commenc[e]d settling for the first settlements were all about the fort.

I must now go on with my law suit in which Jos R. Brown was the Justice of Peace I sued Foot before Brown. the first trial [a] the jury could not agree and a new trial [was] ordered and the jury could not agree and I found that every influence possible was working against me the Justice would like to see my cla[i]m taken from me because the officers had an interest and in fact owned near[ly] the whole. Brown felt sorre about the whisky shop being broken up for it [was] a source of quite a little income to him and he would like to see the officers injured in return if he could do anything to injure them and here it is supposed he done all he could to get a jury that would decide against me but my proof was too strong and the work showed too much for any just jury to decide aga[i]nst me but there were enough allways to make a split and keep me in expense which had now come to over \$200/#

○ I told Foot to take half the claim and we settled ○ upon that this the office<sup>rs</sup> did not like but it was the best I could do and so it stood /<sup>#</sup> Mr Brown after this went up to the head of the Lake st Croix and and [sic] took up a town site and lived on Gray Cloud Island himself he built a large house at the upper end of stil water and made arrangements for a District court to be held there but the day appointed Mr Brown was absent /<sup>#</sup> the Judge cam[e] and found no preparations and noth[i]ng to eat and the judge went off scolding Mr J. R. Brown had been appointed clerk of the court and was not to be found and no court of course

Mr Brown had left his first wife a sioux halfbreed Miss Eleen Dickson<sup>s</sup> and mar[r]ie[d] a chippewa halfbreed he got a divorce from her on the flimsey excuse that he wanted to go to trade with the Sioux Indians and he was afraied they would kill his wife he took her along and got divorc[e]d and went and marr[i]ed a Sioux halfbreed whom he lives with up to this tim[e] and as man<sup>y</sup> more as he likes


after my arra[n]gement with foot I went on to work and finished my house at the mouth of st croix but there was no business there at that point there was one little boat that done all the business call[ed] the Rock river this boat run from Galena to the fort once a week and there [sic] did not get enough to pay her expences I fr[e]quently piloted the boat from s<sup>t</sup> croix to Fort Snelling I made a little farm but there was no market for anyth[i]ng and nothing to be made

Mr Foot after our settlement left a man to live on his part of the claim but the S<sup>t</sup> Croix Mill Company discharged him saying



they had not hired him to go about stealing other p[e]oples claims and th[ely] were afraid to trust him for fear he would play them a trick and he went off and left his his [sic] man there for six months I was on the watch all the time to get an opportunity to jump my claim back again So sometime after the six months were up the man went off one day to see if he could sell the claim to get his pay and whilest he was gone I took my ax and a witness and went [and]marked the claim over in my nam[e] and put a padlock on top of his and left it So the next day he came home and found he was fastened out he talked pretty strong about it for a while and threatened to break the lock &c I told him we had a penitentiary for people that broke locks this did not suit verry well and he stoped his threats and a friend of his advised him to compromise the matter. he [said] all he wanted was his pay for what time he had been therre I told him I would give him \$60 dollars he agreed to take it and moved off and I was once more left in quiet possession of my claim but I was maki[n]g nothi[n]g and had spent about all that I brought with me and was now about flat broke again

the winter of 1842:3. was one of the severest winter[s] I ever saw the snow fell first about a foot and a half and went off mostly and fell again over a foot and mostly went off again and in Fe[b]ruary fell near two feet again making in all nearly four feet of snow I lost some 70 hogs and pigs for the want of feed my crops had been small and tight My cattle got through the winter for there were a plenty of rushes and the cattle could get the tops of them and on the islands there was brush and [s]traws [?] So I saved my cattle/<sup>#</sup>that was all I had left

in the spring of 1853 I found it a little  /<sup>#</sup> I had taken

into my house 2 Swiss missionaries they got their wood of me and I sold some wood to the steamboats in this way I dragged the sunry [sic] through Messrs Gavin and Denton gave me one hundred dollars for house rent and wood from their mission society

during the sum[m]er we had a law suit brot on by a man from Galena by the name of Waddle against Henry Jackson of St. Paul/# I was the onley Justice of the peace near about and th[e]y brought the case before me the first was to replevy a lot of goods that Waddle said that Henry Jackson had obtained of him by fals[e] pretenses So I issued a Writ of Replevin and off we started in the old Rock river steamboat and such another crowd of river black legs I never saw We got up to st Paul and the party having the writ went up to Mr Jacksons store and found it fastened th[e]y demanded admittance but word was no thy [sic] party outside threatened to break the door down and th[e]y all got their pistols and bowie knives and flour[i]shed them a while and swore enough to sink a boat if there been any weight in the oaths but the party inside thought it was best to let them in and the writ was served and the goods boxed up and put under my charge and the day for trial came on and the suit was quashed or nonsuited and Mr Jackson got the goods back again and Mr Waddle went off with his fingers in his mouth back to Galena & took drink[i]ng and died as he had run throug[h] a good store of goods and wasted them

all St Paul about this time was a den of card players and a place for the soldiers to go to get liquor and they used to have some high times amongst the black legs in those days

In the fall of 1843 I received a letter from Col Bruce the Indian Agent offering me the interpreters berth as he had discharged his old interpreter I went and accepted the office and



cam[e] down and made arrangements to moove my family and got a man by the name of Joseph Montjeau to moove into my house and gave him all he could rais[e] from the farm and one half of the cattle and moved up and settled down in one of the old stone houses near the fort September 1843 and entered upon the duties of interpreter for the gover[n]m[en]t a c[on]tra[c]t was written out and signed and I was sworn into office

here I commenc[e]d another kind of life and my hands were full of business all the time in writing i[n]terpreting and looking after the farmers and the wants of the Indians about every month the Indians would get up some excuse to council with the agent or the commanding officer and the wind up would be a beg for some provisions or a charge for cutting timber on their lands or fire wood Sometimes the comma[n]ding officer would give them a few rations and they would go off satisfied for a while until they would get hungry for bread therey [sic] would come again.

after the great battle when the Sioux killed so many of the chippewas Major Taliaferro advised them to moove from Lake calhoon as he thought the chippewas would come down and and [sic] kill the whole band of them but the real cause of getting them removed was to get them further off from the settlements for most every [day] there were complaints brought against the Ind[i]ans for killing cattle and th[ey] were constantleey hanging about the forts and the officers complained of their beeing a nuisance to the fort the Indians said th[ey] were not afraid of the chippewas the agent kept advis[i]ng them to move from the lake down to the river and there they would be more secure from the chippewas and finally got them started and th[ey] moved onto the Minnesota (and mixed

up with the bands (most of them) that lived on the Minnesota[.].but still this did not get them out of the way of the chippewas for they would come down in their bark can[oe]s and land above the falls and brush their canoes and a cross over to the road that leads from the the [sic] fort to the village and shoot down one or two and run off and in most every path that was travel[ed] the chippewas would waylay them they came down in large numbers and attacked Little Crows village the Sioux were all drunk they rushed over the river to attack the sioux Chippewas some with guns some with lances some with knives onley the main body were hid in the long grass and two or three of the chippewas went out to the village the main fort was on the west side of the river (Little Crows band was the one attacked) the first braves that went out found a woman [sic] the wife of a canadian hoeing corn they shot her and gave the warhoop and ran up to scalp her the french man ran to his wife but by this time three or four more chippewas got up and some of them kept the frenchman off whilst the others took the scalp [sic] and went off shouting at the sam[e] time some other chipewas attacked a lodge and killed a woman and child the Indian had two wives one was with him in a white mans house near by where his other wife was killed but the man had no gun and dare not venture out and the chippewas went off rejo[i]cing back to the main party

Shortley after the Sioux got over and rushed on to the chippewas a large number being secreted in the grass the Sioux did not see them until th[ey] got close to them the chippewas rose from their ambush and fired and wounded and killed fifteen the first shot then took [to] their heels and ran off and a few Sioux that were not hurt followed on after them and killed five



of them their temerity ~~made~~ made them loose the honor of the day for if they had of stood their ground in a few minutes th[e]y could have killed all of the men and then th[e]y could have went and killed their women but they were too big cowcowards [sic] and made off the Sioux following the Sioux were only five in number that kept up the chase for about five miles where th[e]y killed the last chippewa that was to be found there were in all 280 chippewas and only 30 men of the Sioux and half of them were shot down the first fire of the chippewas Some were old men and had only knives and did not follow this left Little crows village in pitaful state the dieing and wounded were all with the dead brought in and laid out in their own lodges and a great day of lamentation and mou[rning] it was the Doctor came down from the fort and some troops were sent down but the chippewas were all off out of the soldiers reach and th[e]y went home as th[e]y came. Little crow felt that he had received a chastisement that he had deserved for he had been in the habit of going or sending out two or three war parties every summ[er] and killing some of the chip-pewas this blow cooled him down [sic] he never went to war again

I had not been in my new office long before an order came from Washington for the agent and command[i]ng officers to make an effort to stop the whiskey trafick which had grown to such an alarming extent that every few nights an Indian would be k[i]lled or frozen to death I had to be out sometimes every night sometimes once a week watching the Indians with a party of soldiers/ We caught a great many and broke their kegs one night we took seven kegs and the Indians with them and the next morning the command[i]ng officer sent for me I went down to the fort capt

Backs was in command he came along laughing ah he said you have been runing the mail again have you yes sir what luck had you/# 7 kegs I said my ~~little~~ you have got enough for the whole fort/# we must go and look at it So he told some soldiers to take the 7 kegs to the top of the hill outside the fort and ordered the Indians to be brought out and took an axe along in his hand several persons had gathered round and captain Backus told the Indians if they did not stop camerying [sic] whisky into the Indian country he would punish them worse than breaking their kegs and handed me the axe and told me to go to work I took the axe and knocked in the seven heads of the kegs and made a stream half way down the hill towards the river by the fort the Indians looked verry solomn they had come a long distance to get whiskey to trade for horses and had lost a considerable amount by the opperation but this put a stop to the trade for the winter but in the spring they commenc[e]d again in canoes

I was sent with Lieut ~~hall~~ Hall and a party of soldiers to watch them and seize them if possible and if they would not stop to fire ball close to them and see if that would bring them too/# presently along came a can[o]le I hail[e]d them in Indian but no reply & again I hail[e]d no reply but th[e]y paddled off as fast as possible Lieut Hall took [his] musket and fired and the water spattered all over the Indians but no stop he fired aga[i]n but no stop to Mr Indian and th[e]y got off Lieut Hall went and reported that he could not bring them too and two canoes had got passed him captain ordered him him [sic] to load with fine shot he done so and we went back again and we had not been there long before another canoe cam[e] along We hailed again but no stop Lieut Hall fired one Indian fell over but the



other paddled across to the shore and th[e]y ran off before th[e]y could load again. So we gave it up. thre[e] can[o]leses [sic] had passed and we did not catch one of them but one of the Indians got a charge of shot that laid him up for a while and the com-[m]and[i]ng officer told them if th[e]y did not stop runni[n]g whisky by there in the night he would put a boat there and a party of men with orders to fire on all that were passing after night. this stoped the business for a while but the next] winter they commenc[e]d again. captain backus had been ordered away and captain Eastman was in command.

captain Eastman was allways ready and wh[e]nver I would notify him of any whisky having been smuggled passed he would allways have a sleigh & team and a party of men and an officer and we would go in persuit but the Indians had got too smart for us and frequently when we would overtak[e] them they would have it hid before we could get to them. Some nights I have traveled nearley all night to catch an Indian with a keg of whisk[ey]. So determin[e]d we were to break up the trafick and I may say that capt Backus and Major Eastman done more for the benefit of the Sioux so far as stoping liquor from going into the Indian countery than any oth[er] two offic[e]rs that command-ed Fort Snelling.

one Sunday morni[n]g some Indians were return[i]ng from the agency home going upon a gallop. all at once a shot from behind them brough[t] down ~~down~~ the rider and horse. Each re-  
 ceiv[ed] a buck shot in the head. the second shot miss[ed] and the Indian and horse got clear. the chippew[a]s ran up and took the scalp and ran off. the Indian that escaped stood and looked on having no gun until the chippewas went off. when

he came back and reported and in about an hour a hundred Indians had assembled and some went in pursuit returned and said they could not find anything for the chippewas had made tracks fast with their scalp they brought in the dead body and laid it down at my door and here all the Indians and the commanding officer and we had a long and tedious council the Indians wanted to know if he was a going to allow the chippewas to come and kill the Sioux in sight of his fort and spill their blood and they could get no satisfaction the command[ing] officer capt Backus asked them if th[e]y had forgot how many wom[en] and children th[e]y had murdered a few summ[ers] before and told them the chippewas could not forget such a butchery in a short time and were now and then getting a small part of satisfaction the Sioux got mad and clamorous for blood and said it was their own fault the chippe- was would come down in large parties and make peace with the Sioux and when th[e]y were unsuspecting the chippewas would som[e] few of them leave the main body and waylay a sioux and kill him and run off as was the case when so m[an]y of the chippewas were killed and if the[y] could [have] had the chance th[e]y wou[ld] have done the sam[e] thing they kill all th[e]y can and so do we kill all we can as opportun[ity] offers but this thing of allowing them to come right under the guns of your fort and spilling our blood you ought to be ashamed of it captain Backus told them th[e]y had done the same thing reminding them of the time they had fired upon a camp of chippewas camped on the flat below the fort/ yes and said the sioux we paid pretty dearly for it three of our young men were taken up and shot by the ch[ippewas] by order of Col Snelling and none of them died the com[man]ding officer said if none of them died you tried to kill all you could by firing



into the whole camp this made the Sioux mad the Sioux [were] mad for th[e]y began to see that the com[m]and[ing] officer was not a going to help them in the matter and the relations were all around balling and crying and making the most awful lamentations and cutting themselves at a terrible rate they hung on and told the commanding officer that a camp of chippewas were encamped below the falls the same ones that had got three of their young men shot a few year[s] before the chief (Hole in the day) they said th[e]y would go and kill the whole of them if the comm[an]ding officer did not doe [sic] something about the affair. the com[m]and[er] told them if they went up there he would would [sic] take his cannon and go up to their villege and batter everything down and kill everything that came in his way this colled them down a little and th[e]y began to talk a little more reasonable and the command[ing] officer told them if they would take their dead man and go off home quiet and peaceable that he would send for hole in the day and have them all to meet at the fort next morning and if there were any of his party that had been in the party that killed the sioux, that he would take them and keep them in prison and let their Great father the Presid[en]t decide how the matter should be settled So they went off and the next morning th[e]y were all there bectimes/# the chippewas had come down the eveni[n]g before and camped near the fort for fear of some treacherous move on the part of the sioux/# they were all paraded in front of the fort so as to be handy if the Sioux did pounce on the chippewas to give them a shot from the fort/# the com[man]ding officer asked the chippewas if any of them had been with the party that killed the Sioux the day before they replied that th[e]y knew nothing about it and that its must be some stra[n]ge Indians from the up[p]er cou[n]try the [Sioux] said they