

destination ~~we~~ we could hear the Roar of the Bulls
 like distant Thunder and within a mile of it
 we could see thousands of them swimming about
 in fact the Lake was literally full of Buffalo cooling
 themselves, the wind being favorable we went on quietly
 until we reached a clump of 10 ~~to~~ ^{or} 15 acres of woods where
 it was their intention to camp, at length my guide drew
 my attention to the bush which was full of them (he was
 the only hunter with us) I wanted to fire but he shook his
 head and, wrapped in a Buffalo Robe got quietly out
 of the canoe ~~or~~ ^{or} passed unheeded thro' the crowd to the
 edge of the of the Prairie land (about 500 yards) and immedi-
 ately shot one, at this signal I was out once in the bush
 among the host but they so frightened, running, jump-
 ing, bumping, confusing me so that I could not take
 aim at any one so I let fly at the flock to no purpose
 but my guide, within fifteen minutes had three
 fat cows lay at his feet, when I reached the the
 Prairie, the whole scene, as far as could see was black
 motion. Yens of thousands ~~was~~ heavy powerful beasts
 were fleeing from their hateful enemy, But all had
 been put under Adams control. I had not had a fair shot
 and we returned home. ~~the~~ the wild fowl season came
 and I practised until the ice shut them off, then ~~a few~~
 a few days Muskrat hunting, and winter shut me
 in, Not a Book or Paper of any kind to amuse or
 shorten time a little Trapping at little snowshoeing
 (fifty miles) to visit my next neighbors, making
 oars, Paddles &c killed off the winter, The Indian
 hunters, came in, Trade was ^{over} my little half breed
~~boy~~ off my little boy and girl to her friends and I
 never saw her again. Boat was repaired Pack
^{made} and about the 20th March 1844 I left the
 River. Peters with full intent to return to the
 Trade, not, of course, knowing what a kind ~~man~~
 Proved him

a kind Providence had in store for me -

Arriving at Prairie des Chiens I, as usual, deposited such articles as I would require for the next winter Trade and after fasting eight or ten days at my friend Monsieur Brisbois's on thick milk and sugar I started for Mackinaw being early in the season and hard work for the men stemming the strong current of the Soudan River I allowed them to go on leisurely, stopping on the sand banks to collect ^{eggs} turtles which were excellent eating, and to kill Rattle snakes, some of which were very beautiful being about four feet long the skin a bright gold colour with long black heart shaped spots but the eating of Turtles eggs was after a few days, suddenly put a stop to (the eggs are somewhat less than a Tigeon) by my cook bringing my usual dozen for breakfast, on opening the first one I observed something coiled on it like a black hair, how a hair could get inside of an egg I could not make out so I summoned the men to witness the Phenomenon they at once call out "a Snake" I was not aware that Turtles and Rattle Snakes egg were similar or that they both made their deposits in the sand neither do I know how many young snakes I had eaten but we collected of the mixed kind and ate at least a peck a day for the last five days and now regretted the discovery for they were very good -

I spent a few days at day at Green Bay with my friend John Lowe, in short, so dangle away my time that nearly all the Traders had arrived and I did not reach Mackinaw until about the 10th of June, I had made splendid returns among which were 350 Buffalo Robes and 1000 Racks of Beaver, for the ^{the} ~~was offered~~ ^{by the same} ~~ten dollars each~~ but having received a circular from my ⁷²⁹ ~~equip~~ ^{in Montreal} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~requesting~~ ^{not to sell}

for the Robes the commanding officer offered Ten
 Dollars each, but a circular from my Equiper in
 Montreal (Joussant Potier) advising not to sell
 before his arrival as he would give the highest price
 of 100 - Four days after my arrival at Fort
 Mackinaw, I was comfortably ^{and} the Garrison
 was commanded by Lieut. Robert McDowell of the
 Glamorgan with ^{Royal Veterans} Detachments of the 81st Regiment
 and Newfoundland Regiments and a few of the
 Royal Artillery (a Sergeant commanding) being a poor
 Indian Trader it was of course not my policy to seek
 acquaintance with such great men. However before
 the end of a week after my arrival I was roused at
 in the morning by a Gentlemen informing me that
 two men in little bark boats had arrived ^{from} ^{the} ^{west}
 from Prairie des Chien with the information ^{that} the
 American soldiers in three Gun Boats had arrived
 and were building a Fort at Prairie des Chien. I
 jumped up saying "we must take the Fort."
 I dressed and on reaching the street found all a stir
 and alive to ^{my} views I said all those who are willing
 to go let them give me their names, and by 10 o'clock
 down I had more than 80 Volunteers, black and red-
 heads (only one of the many Bourgeois, and having large
 stakes in the Mississippi - It is true our intentions
 appeared unwieldy and very doubtful of success, for
 our private means were limited for a big job of this
 kind we had no stores of any kind either
~~Food~~ Boats, Provisions, arms or Ammunition.
 However when Colonel McDowell in ^{the} course
 of the day became aware of my success, he ^{was} much
 pleased and offered me any military stores he
 could spare from ^{his} limited stock. This good news
 inspired our ambition. I made Captain Macartney
 a red coat ^{presented} two epaulettes an old rusty
 sword

old sword and Red cock feather in my round hat
 was at once a captain Pompey dimension and
lucky for Napoleon and his as they were beyond the
reach of Andersons Mississippi Volunteers.

It was an ~~an~~ entire stranger to the commandant and it
 would not have been soldier ^{like} in him to have ~~placed~~
~~in the hands~~ ~~he~~ entrusted the valuable stores to a
 man without credentials, so the Command was of the
Expedition was nominally under a volunteer officer from
 Lower Canada (St. John's Bay) whose entire knowledge and
 predilection was Rum - Well, the Island of
 Mackinaw was in fact under Blockade and
 in daily expectation of a formidable attack.
 Therefore it would have been unwise in the Com-
 mandant from his ~~limited~~ ~~to have~~ limited stores to
 have given us ample supplies but knowing the vast
 importance of securing the services of the Western tribes
 being also the devoted enthusiasm of a jolly band
 of Canadian voyageurs raised for short a time ~~and~~
 and that ~~there~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{an} old volunteer of the Revolutionary
 War in defence of their country, inspired him with
 confidence and ~~was~~ ^{was} gladly mustered as a part of
 his command. He gave ^{us} three Gun Boats (gun boats)
 which had been constructed at Holland as during
 the winter before one having a platform near the
 bow for a gun a Breech three pounder and such other
 stores as he ^{could} ~~presumably~~ ^{found} ~~there~~ Also one Artillery man
 and a worn out soldier from ^{the} Veteran Battalion.

We were ready ~~and~~ ~~started~~ about the 20th June
 under ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~eyes~~ ^{eyes} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~kind~~ ^{kind} ~~wishes~~ ^{wishes} for our success.

We made all haste to get out of the reach of the
 expected enemies that from below from Green Bay
 some of the ~~most~~ ^{most} ~~ominous~~ ^{ominous} ~~tribe~~ ^{tribe} ~~volunteers~~ ^{volunteers} and
 followed us in their canoes at ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~place~~ ^{place} ~~where~~ ^{where} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~joined~~ ^{joined} ~~us~~ ^{us} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~fact~~ ^{fact} ~~when~~ ^{when} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~reached~~ ^{reached} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Prarie~~ ^{Prarie} ~~des~~ ^{des}
 Chien

On about the 20 July we had a host of followers
 of all Nations, Aps and Seps — we reached
 there about noon and pitched our camp at convenient
 place, and I went immediately with a flag of truce and
 demanded their surrender this refused to do — I noticed
 they had built houses, fenced them in with strong oak pickets
 10 feet high with two substantial Block-Houses with
 cheverlefig and two Gun Boats Anchored near by.

On my return to camp we opened fire upon their
 fort but to little effect on their ~~banked~~ earthen oak
 Pickets. Their 14 pound shot because of their bad
 Powder did ^{not} reach our camp, in the mean time under
 shelter of the village buildings the kept up a constant
 firing at the fort, but down their flag and wounded
 two of their men ~~and~~ ^{Indians} thus the fort was

Two of our Indians were also wounded but slightly
 thus ended the first day — Next morning opened
 our fire upon the fort our shots hit them but
~~they~~ they did not return the fire so I ordered the
 Bombardier to run his gun up and
 attack the Gun Boats (only one returned our fire, the
 being empty) the other shot for shot many by a length
 the ~~gunner~~ ^{gunner} cried out "for God's sake come
 and help me I am and found all his men had left
 him and said what can I do? take the trail of the
 gun please and enable me to lay it. The next
 from the Boat rolled in between the wheels of our

gun being a three pound shot the took saying
 shall I return them this Ball Sir? Yes! and loaded
 with it and it cut off their gunners two ~~men~~ ^{men}
 this shut them up, they but cable and I ran
 to camp and ordered a gun Boat ready to follow

follow and capture it, as it had all their valuable
 stores on board but our Commander rose from his ^{snore}
 came along rubbing his eyes promptly ordering me to
 desist - ^{from} me would have caused mutiny - They
 turned a point about a mile below and landed to stop
 leakage and prevent their sinking - Our shot was
 now nearly all gone - so I got a few Bricks and a quantity of
 Lead from the village made a mould of two Bricks
 and cast a number ^{some} leaden ~~the~~ pound Ball - In the
 meantime the Indians were bringing in ^{the} Bulls the enemy
 had by their short shots scattered about the Prairie without
 effect - What next - Our stores of provisions were getting low
 our ammunition exhausted but the Fort and its
 contents we came to take and must have it - at
 day light next our gun was within 150 Yards of the
 Indians with small fire making an Iron shot red hot
 when they found themselves in a fair way to be burnt
 they surrendered - We took 65 Prisoners, several Iron
 Guns a small quantity of Flour Ye an ^a quantity
 of Whiskey the Casks containing this I stored in fear
 the Indians might get it - As they were thirsting for
 blood ^{and} required some tact to keep their hands off
 their ~~enemies~~ ^{enemies} we could not trust any of them inside
 the Fort - Their empty Boats were fitted up and next
 morning at day light they were on their way to Saint
 Louis escorted by one of our Lieutenants for a short
 distance - And now began the Travel and much
 wanted instructions as to Guard Mounting &c &c
 The Bombardier and the old Veteran were
 the only two in whole party that had any
 correct knowledge of the science - Our Commander
 an old ~~trusty~~ ^{trusty} was ^{ter} boiling inside Roasting
 (Thermon) ^{ter} in the shade) Outside ^{the} ^{the}
 and blaspheming all above and below
 took a Bark barge with 4 men and after giving
 his own man (M. KAY) to the Fort and to ^{the}
 all to me took his leave to the joy of all concerned

I am now, tho on a smaller scale at Wellington ~~or~~
~~or at~~ ^{and} commanding all around me - Some ^{Indians} ~~Indians~~ ^{of those} had already been induced by exaggerated stories
from the enemy to surrender the Royal George Medals
which ^{they} had received with other tokens of Friendship from
General ^{Lord} Haldiman and other prominent Commanders
in the early days of Quebec, for those of the American Eagle,
however they soon returned to their old Flag with the
exception of One Seneca Chief, Hoo-paw-en-du-tah
(Red Wing) who was ~~the~~ ^{the} Head of a large Band and a
numerous family connections, he ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{was} famed too as a great
Prognosticator. After my repeatedly pressing the subject,
he came to me one morning and after the usual
Smoke he took my ^{hand} and standing up said "We-yo-te-huk
and addressing me by my Seneca name "We-yo-te-huk (the
Meridian Sun)" said "I had another dream you know all
the blood in my heart is English, but I will ^{not} now fight the
Big Knives (Americans) I have given to you my Band
and my children, they with all the other Indians are
your soldiers and will fight for you but Red Wing will
not raise his War Club, I saw the future in my dreams
three times" - He took his seat, evidently having spoken
in opposition to his outward man. After another
Smoke I said will ^{you} tell me your reasons for your fixed and
strange determination, "its no use, I have told you
I will ^{now} fight the Big Knives," very well, but I
would like to ^{know} the reason, "I cannot it will not
change my thoughts" Well, tell me why and ill say
no more "you tell me the Lion on ^{this} medal is the
strongest most powerful of all animals, I have
never seen one but I believe what you say"
"~~This~~ ~~Lion~~, like our Tiger sleeps this Lion like our
Tiger sleeps all day but the Eagle, who is the most
powerful of Birds only sleeps at night, in the day
time he flies about all day and sees all on the ~~ground~~
ground"

He will light on a Tree over the Lion and they will scold at each other for a while but they will sit to be friends, they ^{will} smoke the Pipe of Peace and the Lion will go home and leave us with our foes that is my reason for not taking up my war club your enemies will believe me when I speak good words to them. And so things turned ~~turned~~ out — we left ^{them} to care for themselves.

I had now about five thousand Indians at my command and the least expensive troops known for they fed and clothed themselves — I had now to look ~~around~~ and determine upon the means for defence to drill the Volunteers to the use of small arms I had not the means neither under existing circumstances could it be of any use beyond Guard mounting ~~or~~ — If a force should be sent against us it must be by water and our dependence would ^{not} be on our Artillery — I therefore selected the best men for the purpose myself at the head and directing the Bombardier to select 2 Iron 3 pound Field Pieces and placing myself under his command commenced the Drilling began our hearts were in the work, the words of command were few, the Manoeuvring for our purpose was simple, so that daily twice, four ~~hours~~ hard work under a boiling sun, made at the end of a week half the Garrison well able to manage the Guns, but wanted Ball Practice which I could not allow as our stores were small — however, to keep up excitement we had sham fights twice a week, scampering over the Trenches like mad — In September a Sack Indian courier arrived, by a short cut across the country from Rock River informing me that eleven Gun Boats had been seen some distance below that ^{River} making shows progress up, supposed to recapture their Fort Jimmie shortly got ready Captain Graham and six steady Volunteers, in two large wooden

Canoes

with a One pound Swivel and some ammunition for the famous Black Hawk who with his warriors were at the place of Kinnegous. At the confluence of the Rock River with the Mississippi is a very strong current runs for about four miles down, the navigable channel is ~~very~~ narrow and very serpentine, so ^{that} the obstruction thus made causes the water to flow over, about two feet deep a gravel beach, so that if the Boatmen are not very careful the current will force the Boat ^{on} ~~up~~ gravel and gives no small trouble to put it into the proper channel again. And my orders to Captain Graham therefore were, to ~~take~~ remove the Indians out of sight, and ~~then~~ leave nothing that could cause them to fear, until they would be well up the difficult part of the Rapid, then a single shot will throw them into confusion and ~~they~~ ^{the Indians} cannot escape.

Captain reached the place in time to effect his arrangements
~~in~~ The enemy arrived at the foot of the Rapids too late in
the day to undertake the difficult channel therefore anchored in
stream and here my plan was thwarted, a young Indian whose
brother had been killed by the enemy a few days previous took
the first chance which offered for revenge, he made his way at
night to one of the Gun Boats and stuck his lance through one
of the sentry killing him on the spot, and ^{then} making his escape
sang ~~his~~ his war song and ^{thus} arousing friend and foe. Next morning
the latter had at the Commodore's Mast Head "NO Quarters"
so our Swivel began to play upon them, they took alarm
cut cables and ^{the} whole fleet were soon on their back to Saint
Louis. I was now safe from an attack from that quarter.
It was necessary to make extensive repairs to render
our position comfortable for the winter, provisions were
freely supplied by Traders and Farmers the meat
Rations were Game and Fish. I had no Military chest but
credit was unlimited. I did ^{not} know ~~any~~ ^{any} thing about
the mode of keeping Army Accounts, neither was I versed
in Military Regulations, I therefore reported these
circumstances, and at the same time recommended
the Bombardier, who had contributed so much to our
success for ~~provisions~~ With this Report I sent off a light
canoe addressed to Lt. Col. Robert McDowell commanding
Michilimackinac and its Dependancies. Within
a month I received a very satisfactory reply, Captain Bulger
of the Newfoundland Regt. was sent to relieve me in the
Command, James Keating late Bombardier was pro-
moted to "Fort Adjutant" and a Contractor appointed to
supply Rations. Captain Bulger set to work and in
a very few days had all my accounts straight. And
tho' ~~the~~ he commanded the Garrison, I was the donor
of all. We went on with much cheer, the Officers and
Traders gave Balls at least three times a week, until
about the middle of February when a melancholy
affair