

most remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders. It is not always that they do so at this place. A general council of the chiefs determine whether it would be more conducive to their interest to sell their goods to the traders here, or carry them to Louisiana or Michillimackinac." He says that at the mouth of the Wisconsin stands a high mountain, (550 feet, according to Pike), that the Mississippi is there a half a mile wide, but opposite to the prairie is more than a mile and full of islands, the soil of which is extraordinarily rich and but thinly wooded. It is singular, that when CARVER was here, he found no white inhabitants, at least he does not speak of meeting with any, although he describes the large Indian town and its commercial importance. He further remarks "that the traders who accompanied him took up their winter residence on the opposite side of the river; this they would not have done if there had been at that time a settlement of whites near the mouth of the Wisconsin. This may be accounted for by the fact that inasmuch as Canada been surrendered to England, the French had of course evacuated their fort, which tradition said was burned the second year of the American revolution.

1766-80. We find no further accounts of visits of travellers until 1780. At that date Captain J. Long while at Mackinaw was sent by the commanding officer to accompany a party of Indians and Canadians to the Mississippi. Information had been received at Mackinaw that the Indian traders had deposited their furs at Prairie du Chien, where there was a town of considerable note, built under the command of Mons. LANGLADE, the King's interpreter, and the object of the expedition was to secure these furs and keep them from the Americans. Capt. LONG left Mackinaw with thirty-six Indians of the Outagamies and Sioux, twenty Canadians in nine large birch canoes, laden with Indian presents. The party arrived at Green Bay in four days and proceeded through the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to the forks of the Mississippi where he met two hundred of the Fox Indians, and had a feast of five Indian dogs, bear, beaver, deer, mountain cat and racoon boiled in bears' grease and mixed with huckleberries! He proceeded to Prairie du Chien where he found the merchants peltries in packs in a log-house, guarded by Capt. LANGLADE and some Indians. He took 300 packs of the best skins and filled the canoes. Sixty more were burnt to prevent the enemy (the Americans) from taking them. He then

returned to Green Bay (in seventeen days) and thence to Mackinaw.

1781. This year Lieut. Gov. PATRICK SINCLAIR, of Upper Canada, held a treaty with the Indians at Mackinaw, for the purchase of that island, Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. PIERRE LAPOINTE testified before Judge LEE, in 1820, that he was interpreter at the treaty.

1781-2. MICHAEL BRISBOIS gave evidence at the same time that he had then (1820) been 39 years in this country, consequently was a resident at this time. He also testified that from his own knowledge and the best information he could obtain, Prairie du Chien, from the mouth of the Wisconsin to the upper part of the prairie, had been occupied and cultivated in small improvements, both before and since his arrival.

1783. The present settlement was begun this year by Mr. GIARD, Mr. ANTAYA and Mr. DUBUQUE. There had formerly been an old settlement about a mile below the present village, which existed during the time the French held possession of the Canadas, but it was abandoned chiefly on account of the unhealthy situation, being near the borders of an extensive tract of overflowed land. At this time, or soon after, says Dr. BRUNSON, twenty or thirty settlers, and previous to 1793, the whole prairie had been claimed and occupied, amounting to forty-three farms and thirty or forty village lots, most or all of which had previously been built upon. This fact was established in 1823, by testimony taken before Judge LEE, who was appointed to take testimony for the Government on the private land claims of parties at the village. The greater part of the settlers came as hunters, traders or employees, and taking wives of the natives commenced farming on a small and primitive scale, cultivating the land with wooden plows, ironed at the point, while they also hunted, trapped, and voyaged as occasion required.

1784-1800. From a report made to Congress, Feb. 25, 1818, we learn that the village and fort were formally surrendered by the British to the United States, on the first day of June, 1786. Gen. W. R. SMITH thinks there is a doubt of the formal surrender being made at that time. The general surrender of all the western posts did not take place till July of that year.

In April, 1785, there was a great flood in the Mississippi; the waters rose fifteen to twenty feet above the highest mark they had ever been known to reach. The whole region of country drained by the river, presented the aspect of an im-