

certained that the captain had failed to fulfill his engagement; and immediately he took the skiff, went ashore and purchased dishes, knives, forks, spoons, and provisions, and we proceeded on our voyage. We were becalmed about ten days on the St. Clair River and Flats, during which we went on shore and bought a sheep, which helped along with the rusty pork and hard bread. At that time, I had seen very little of hardships, and I suffered much from such fare as hard bread and rusty pork.

We were almost a month from Detroit to Drummond's Island, where we found a trader named Lacroix, with a boat bound to Mackinaw, and with him we engaged our passage. No provisions could be had at Drummond's Island so we were obliged to depend on the *voyageurs'* kettle of corn soup, a new kind of fare to me; and, I believe, I ate but a few mouthfuls from Drummond's Island to Mackinaw. We were two days reaching Mackinaw, where we arrived on the morning of the 15th of August. Once there and recruited, we had a new source of anxiety, in daily expecting the arrival of the paymaster until the close of navigation; and then I had to content myself as well as I could, until the ensuing spring of 1816. At the request of some of the inhabitants, I concluded to open a school, as it would keep me from idleness; if my scholars did not learn much English, I concluded I should stand a chance of acquiring some French—thus acting out the Yankee character of adapting one's self to circumstances. And thus I spent the winter.

During the winter of 1815-16, Congress passed an act excluding foreigners from participating in the Indian trade within the limits of the United States or its Territories. This was then supposed to have been done through the influence of Mr. Astor, and upon the purchase of the property of the *South West Company*, the American Fur Company re-appeared under the auspices of Mr. Astor—the headquarters of which were at Mackinaw.

Although Congress had passed a law excluding foreigners from the Indian country, it was found that the trade could not