

person felt himself aggrieved, he preferred suffering injustice to going to the expense of an appeal; so that practically, Reaume's court was the Supreme Court of the country. He took care not to decide against any of the traders who were able to bear the expense of an appeal; in fact the traders made use of him to hold their men in subjection, but never submitted to him any difficulty between themselves. These were left to the arbitration of other traders. It was said of him, that a bottle of spirits was the best witness that could be introduced into his court, and that after the decision of a case, the losing party producing the above witness, had been granted a new trial or re-hearing, and a reversal of the former decision obtained. For misdemeanor he sentenced the culprit to labor a certain number of days on his farm, or cut and split a certain number of rails for him. I have read the narrative of James W. Biddle, of Pittsburgh, whom I knew at the time, and the anecdotes related by him of Judge Reaume were current at that day, together with many others that would not look well in print.

During my stay at Green Bay waiting the arrival of my employers, one of their "engagees" or boatmen had left their employ and engaged himself to an American concerned in suttlng for the troops, and I went to Judge Reaume, stating the case to him, asked him what the law was on that subject, and what could be done. He answered me in his broken English: "*I'll—make—de—man—go—back—to—his—duty.*" "But," I again asked, "what is the law on the subject?" He answered, "*de—law—is—I'll—make—de—man—go—back—to—his—duty.*" I reiterated my inquiry, "Judge Reaume, is there no law on the subject?" He replied with a feeling of conscious dignity, "*We—are—accustomed—to—make—de—men—go—back—to—their—bourgeois.*" Finding Judge Reaume had no law except his own precedents and the customs of Green Bay, and not believing that American citizens would submit to, and obey the process of his old jack-knife, or the customs of the Green Bay Indian traders,