

a person who understands something of their nature and disposition, but their *bourgeois* or employer must be what they consider a gentleman, or superior to themselves, as they never feel much respect for a man who has, from an *engagee*, risen to the rank of a clerk.

The traders in this country, at the time I came into it, were a singular compound; they were honest as far as they gave their word of honor to be relied upon; and, in their business transactions between themselves, seldom gave or took notes for balances or assumptions. It rarely happened that one of them was found who did not fulfill his promises; but when trading in the Indian country, any advantage that could be taken of each other in a transaction, was not only considered lawful—such as trading each other's credit—but an indication of tact and cleverness in business. Two traders having spent the winter in the same neighborhood, and thus taken every advantage they could of each other, would meet in the spring at Prairie du Chien, and amicably settle all difficulties over a glass of wine.

There was not, at the time I came to Prairie du Chien, any Indian corn raised there. The traders for the Upper Mississippi, had to send down, for their corn which they used, to the Sauks and the Foxes at Rock Island, and trade with them for it. It is believed that the first field of corn raised at Prairie du Chien was by Thomas McNair, an American, who had married a French girl and settled down to farming.

The farmers of Prairie du Chien appeared to be a more thrifty and industrious people than those of Green Bay; they raised a large quantity of small grain, such as wheat, barley, oats, peas, and also some potatoes and onions. Every two or three farmers united and had a horse flouring-mill—the stones being cut from the granite rock found in the country. There they ground their wheat, and sifted the flour by hand. The surplus flour was sold to the Indian traders for goods, or exchanged with the Indians for venison, ducks, and geese, or dressed deer-skins, as there was no money