

in circulation in the country. Any purchase made was payable in goods from the traders or flour from the inhabitants.

The manner in which the traders dealt with the farmers was this; to let the farmer set his price on anything that he had to sell, without grumbling or saying anything about its being high, as it was payable in goods; the trader charging his price for the goods—so each party got all he asked, and neither had cause for complaint, but of course the trader was not the loser by the transaction. Mr. Michael Brisbois related to me a transaction which took place between himself and a farmer by the name of Pierre Lariviere. This Lariviere was ambitious to pass with his neighbors for the best farmer in the country, and went to Mr. Brisbois to see what he was paying for flour, which I think was then six dollars per 100 lbs; but Lariviere desirous of the opportunity of boasting to his neighbors that he had gotten more for his flour than they did, expressed a wish that Mr. Brisbois would pay him more than the market value for his flour, which Mr. Brisbois told him he could not do. "Oh," said Mr. Lariviere, "you can make it up by charging more for the goods with which you pay me;" and so they closed the bargain, not to Mr. Brisbois loss. The prices compared somewhat like this: When flour was worth \$8.00 per 100 lbs., hyson or young hyson tea was worth \$8.00 per pound; if flour was worth only \$6.00, tea would remain the same price, when the farmer got \$9.00 per bushel for onions, and \$1.00 per dozen for eggs, he paid the above price for tea. The women of Prairie du Chien, mostly daughters of the Indian traders, had been raised in the habit of drinking a great deal of tea in the Indian country, where other beverage for children could not be procured, and it thus became from long habit with them almost a necessary of life, and they would make any sacrifice to obtain their favorite beverage. When eggs were worth \$1.00 per dozen, rosin soap was worth \$1.00 per pound, and calico that at this date, would be sold at Prairie du Chien from 20 to 25 cts. per yard, was then sold at \$2.00 per yard; clay pipes at