

on their way down. I was then satisfied that my presence was required there, unless I intended to abandon the mill; and it being in the hot weather of August, I did not feel much inclined to make a voyage in a canoe exposed to the sun, but from the materials we had to deal with, I saw at once that it was necessary.

I had a canoe manned with a half breed Winnebago, who spoke Chippewa, and together with Armstrong and the Frenchman who had come down with him, put out at once, taking in my canoe provisions enough for myself and crew to reach the mill. We had proceeded about forty miles up the Mississippi, when early in the morning at a sand-bar, in the middle of a channel, and about one fourth of a mile from the shore, I met a canoe with a Menomonee half-breed and a large athletic Ohioan by the name of Hartwell, whom I had never seen before. Armstrong had engaged him as carpenter, and taken him to the mill without my having seen him, or knowing his name. I asked them where they were going, and they said to the Prairie. I said, "no!—you must return with me." I knew that the half-breed would obey without difficulty, but Hartwell said he was going to the Prairie, and I knew in order to take all of them back, I must take these back as I met them. Hartwell was a strong man and armed with a rifle, but I said to him, "this canoe at least is mine, and does not go to the Prairie; you can take your choice, either to go back, or to remain on this sand-bar."

He concluded to go back, and for fear that they might give me the slip, I got into the canoe with them and we proceeded up the river about ten miles farther, where we met all the Canadians with the half-breed Menomonee woman, when we all put ashore. I told them that they must go back to the mill, which they refused to do. I soon discovered, as I had suspected, that the woman was the leader of the party, and I bribed her to go back. She consented, and the others followed her example. She and her husband were in a large canoe, not half finished, which would go hard up stream. From the manner of her consenting so readily