

to return, I suspected that she intended as soon as they could lag a little behind, and get some point between me and them, to slip down the stream, which I afterwards learned was really their intention; to prevent which, I told them, as they were weak-handed, and had a heavy canoe, that I would embark with them and help them paddle. I paddled all day, and made a good day's work up stream, and encamped in a channel of the river opposite to Wabashaw's Prairie.

The men had only taken provisions enough to last them to the Prairie, and it was soon seen that my stock would not be sufficient for the additional mouths until we reached the boat. In camp at night one of the men named Francis La Pointe, a native of Prairie du Chien, and well acquainted with the customs of the Indians, told me that it was but a short distance across the country to the Chippewa, where the boat then was; and proposed to go there, take a canoe and meet us with provisions, which I requested him to do. He accordingly after breakfast borrowed a gun, took some crackers in his pocket, and started across, while we proceeded up the channel along under the bluffs for about five miles to where the canoes cross the Mississippi to the western side. Just as we were about putting off from the shore, La Pointe came running down the hill hallooing "Indians!" The canoes were all putting out into the river, but I ordered the canoe that I was in to put to shore, and take the man in, confiding, at the time, in his statement.

La Pointe had on, when he started, two cotton shirts, and when he returned one of the shirts was nearly cut from him, and several stabs through the other. He had thrown away all his ammunition and his hat, and stated that after crossing the hill and getting into a ravine of tall grass, that five Chippewa Indians suddenly surrounded him, took away his powder, shot and provisions, cut his hat and shirt all to pieces, called him a dog, and would have taken his gun had he not begged hard to retain it, telling them that it was not his. He told so probable a story of what would