

satisfied that he was not calculated to conduct such a business, and I concluded that the best way to get rid of him, was to purchase him out, even if I had to give more than he was justly entitled. His fear of the Chippewas was such, that he did not wish to return. He owed me about five hundred dollars, which would not be worth much if he left the mill; yet, to get rid of him, I gave him that, and took a quit claim of all his claims upon the mill, and let him have a small canoe in which he descended the river.

My people agreed to go back to the mill, provided I would get the Menomonees to go up the river with us, but I had no interpreter in whom I could confide, as my half breed Winnebago had joined his comrades, the Canadians, against me. So I sent down for the Menomonees at the lodge we had passed, to come and go with us; but presume that the half-breed Menomonee woman had instructed them how to act; for although I offered them a high price, they pretended to be afraid of the Chippewas, which I was satisfied was not the case, and declined to go, unless another band who were hunting on the Chippewa, above the mouth of the Menomonee River, would go with them. So I sent an Indian for them and proceeded on with my boat, and encamped on a sand-bar opposite the Menomonee River, and waited for the Indians until about noon the next day, when they arrived, but did not want to go into the Menomonee, expressing their fears of the Chippewas. I offered them a keg of powder, a bar of lead, and promised, when they next came to Prairie du Chien, to give them a keg of whiskey; but they still declined going, reiterating their apprehensions, which I was satisfied were feigned for the occasion, and that they were but playing their part as instructed by the half-breed woman. Believing such to be the case, I ordered the men to put the things in the boat, telling them that I was not afraid of the Chippewas, and should go to the mill. Upon this, some of the Canadians showed a disposition to mutiny, but I had made up my mind to go, and knock down the leader with a club; and force them to accompany me. How I should have succeeded