

I do not know, but at that moment the Indians finding that I was determined to go without them, said they would go, and we proceeded up the Menomonee River about nine miles, where we encamped.

The Winnebago and Menomonee half breeds unloaded one of the canoes and said there was a lake near there, and that they would go and shoot elk; but in about an hour they returned, apparently much alarmed, and said they saw tracks of Indians around the lake. But the Menomonees who had agreed to go with us fearing to lose their promised pay if we went back, said that the tracks were not Chippewas but Menomonees, as some of their people had been there that day hunting. The next day we proceeded on up the river without any thing of note until we reached the mill, except occasionally seeing a Chippewa in imagination.

There was among the carpenters of my party a discharged soldier of the name of Holmes, who was a better mill-wright than Armstrong, and upon whom, as I afterwards learned, Armstrong had depended to build the mill. I then made a bargain with Isaac Saunders, one of the carpenters Armstrong had taken up, giving him an interest in the mill to superintend it, and engaged Holmes by the day to build the mill. There had been very little work done during the summer, and they did not get the mill ready to commence sawing until March, 1831; and by the 1st of June following, had sawed about 100,000 feet of lumber. It was impossible at that time at Prairie du Chien to get any other hands than Canadians, except occasionally a discharged soldier; and among the Americans that were at the mill, there was not one who knew how to construct a raft.

The Canadian manner of rafting had been to lay two floats of timber about ten inches square, and raft the boards on them, and they rafted our lumber in that way; but when they had completed the raft, they found there was not water enough to float it, the water being very low that spring. As many of the men's time