

landed, and enquired if there was a carpenter and joiner on board, on which a ragged, dirty looking man said that he professed to be such, and having before seen quite as unprepossessing fellows turn out much better than appearances indicated, I agreed with him at \$1.50 per day and board. I built on the site near Fort Crawford, now occupied by what is called the commanding officer's house. My house was of the following description: a cellar-kitchen, 30 by 26 feet, with a frame on it of the same size, two stories high, with a wing 16 by 20, on the south side, one story, which I used for a retail store. There was a hall through the south end of the two story part, the whole length of the house, with stairs from the cellar-kitchen up into the hall, and stairs from the hall to the upper story. The north end of the house was divided—the front part about 14 by 16 feet, into a parlor or sitting room; a chimney in the center of the north end, and a bed-room in the back part about 14 feet square; a door leading from the hall to the bed-room, and one to the sitting-room, and a door by the side of the chimney from the bed-room to the sitting-room, and a door from the hall into the wing or store. This house I afterwards sold to the Government, with the land on which the fort now stands. It was good enough for General Taylor and family while he commanded here; but as soon as General Brooke was in command, he got an appropriation from Congress to repair the house, and had it all torn down except a part of the cellar wall, and built the one which is there at present, at a cost of about \$7,000.

During the spring of 1827, the reports about the Winnebagoes bore rather a threatening aspect; but, as I said before, situated as they were I did not believe they would commit any depredations. Under this belief, and having urgent business in New York to purchase my goods, I started for that city on the 25th of June; it then took about six months to go and return. Mine was the only purely American family at the Prairie, after the garrison left. There was Thomas McNair, who had married a French girl of the Prairie, and John Marsh, the Sub Indian Agent, who had no family, and there were besides three or four Americans who had been