

ning, we last saw them enter a thicket in the bottom of the Illinois, just below the mouth of the Sangamon, where the Indians had probably left their canoes. We had chased them that day what we judged to be sixty miles; and one old Indian, wearied out, gave out and stopped on the prairie just before the other Indians entered the thicket. As several of our party approached him, the old fellow raised his gun, and pointed it rapidly from one to another, as if to deter them from firing; but about a dozen fired and killed him. We camped near there that night, and then returned home.

In the spring of 1814, Gov. Clark headed an expedition to Prairie du Chien, and there met the Indians of that immediate region in council, and established a fort, when he returned to St. Louis. But in July, 1814, the British under Col. McKay or McCoy retook the place. Col. McKay's force must have been less than two hundred whites, and perhaps two or three thousand Indians,\* of all the nations of the Northwest, except the Menomonees. They descended the Wisconsin† to the point where the high bluff on the eastern bank of the Mississippi terminates near the Wisconsin; there, on the northern bank of the Wisconsin, they landed, and marched overland about seven miles to Prairie du Chien. Col. McKay immediately sent a flag demanding the surrender of the fort, to which Lieut. Perkins declined a compliance, as he said he would defend it to the last. An attack was at once commenced, and an assault upon the fort made by the large body of Indians there assembled. Upon this rush and attack upon the fort, Lieut. Perkins concluded it would be folly to resist, and surrendered; and the greatest exertions were required on the part

\*This number is probably much too high; the newspaper accounts of that period speak of the Indian force being at least a thousand. It was the 17th of July, 1814, that Col. McKay appeared before, and captured Prairie du Chien.

L. C. D.

†Mr. Stephen Taylor, who resided in Wisconsin from 1835 to 1843, and now Controller of the city of Philadelphia, states in conversation, that he learned from different sources, that Col. McKay's forces encamped on what has ever since been known as English Prairie, on which is located the present village of Muscoda; and from this circumstance the Prairie derived its name. This Prairie is some fifteen miles in length, and perhaps, upon an average, two in width, and is something like forty miles above the mouth of the Wisconsin.

L. C. D.