

by means of poles and sails, and with a favorable wind, a hundred and ten miles have been accomplished in a single day. From twelve days to a month were requisite for the voyage from St. Louis to Prairie du Chien, while the descending trip was made in from six to ten days.

I had conversed with Indians at the treaty at Portage des Sioux, and at St. Louis, about trading with them, and asking their permission to build a saw-mill in their country, if I could find a suitable locality, as it was a pine region, and pine lumber was then worth seventy dollars a thousand in St. Louis. I now started to carry out these views. At the place now called Bellevue, in Iowa, about fifteen miles below Galena, and about six below the mouth of Fever River, I stopped, and found a water power, which I judged would fully answer my purpose. Here a small stream flowed into the Mississippi, and some thirty or forty rods above its mouth was a fine locality for a mill; and logs could be rafted down the Wisconsin, and other streams upon which the pine grew abundantly, as I had learned from traders and Indians in that quarter. The Indians had previously informed me, that if I should go up for such a purpose, I must obtain written permission of the Government. I now had a regular license from Gov. Clark, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, to trade with the Indians.

There were a few Indians then encamped at this Bellevue locality, and others collected while I remained, so that in all, there were three or four hundred warriors, and many more squaws and children, assembled there. I soon discovered but little feeling of friendship on the part of the Indians towards the Americans. I had a talk with them, reminding them of their promises to me, and my wish to trade at that point, and erect a mill there. After I had distributed presents during several days to the amount of three hundred dollars in value, and concluding that they had obtained all they could, they said they had been consulting about the matter, and declined to grant my request; that doubtless many whites would be soliciting similar favors and privileges,