

naces. This was the first boat-load of lead from Galena. The Indians had often previously taken lead in small quantities in their canoes to Portage des Sioux and St. Louis, for purposes of barter.

In the course of that year, I made two other trips in the trade to Prairie du Chien, and also trips in 1817, '18,* '19 and '20, making altogether nine trips. I am not certain that I took more than one other trip up Fever River for a load of lead, for the traders, now making all their purchases at St. Louis, would carry down their own lead, and take back a new supply of goods suitable for the Indian trade. After the peace of 1815, and all was settled down again in quiet in the Northwest, the channel of the Indian trade was completely changed, from Mackinaw, where it had so long centered, to St. Louis, as it was found far more accessible, and by this time there were several heavy establishments of merchandise selected with special reference to this trade.

In 1818, I built a grist-mill, as I had promised, at *Fisher's Coulee*, four miles above Prairie du Chien. It had but a single run of stones, and eventually proved a source of expense to me, but a matter of great convenience to the people. Lieut. Col. Talbot Chambers went up to Prairie du Chien in 1817, in my boat, and assumed the command of the garrison. Col. Chambers loved to make a display, was fond of drinking freely, and was naturally tyrannical and over-bearing—and, when intoxicated, was desperate and dangerous. Once when so inflamed with liquor, he chased a young female into the house of Jacques Menard, with no good motive for doing so, when Menard reproached him; upon which Chambers ordered a file of twenty-five soldiers to tie him up, strip, and give him twenty-five lashes with a cat-o'-nine-tails, well laid on.

*In a letter dated at Prairie du Chien, June 7th, 1818, it is stated: "Since you left this place, there have been several arrivals at different times from St. Louis, among whom were Mr. Bolivin (who is now Indian Agent, and civil magistrate), Col. McNair, Maj. Fowler, Mr. Shaw, and Lieutenant (now captain) Hickman and lady. In two hours after his arrival, Col. Chambers started for St. Louis; whether he will return, I do not know. Hickman now commands this post."—Am. State Papers, Public Lands, IV, 33.