

of 1835, we had a long visit from them—longer than they wished to pay, or we receive. They were on their return from Chicago, where they had received their annual payment from the Government, when a storm drove them on shore with us, and about three hundred of them were weather-bound for nearly three weeks. At first they were peaceable and good customers, till our provisions ran short; when they pressed us hard, and sometimes alarmed the few who ought to have sold to them enough to have satisfied their wants. In their extremity, they took some hogs and cattle. The chief trouble arose from their constant desire for whiskey, which they seemed to suppose every white man must have on hand; and not getting it, they disturbed our nights as well as days. As the country had not yet been surveyed, there was some fear of them.

*Burning the Prairies.*—After the first frost, in the autumn of 1835, had killed the millions of tons of grass west of us, we began, at Pike River, to see the rising smoke at a distance. The Indians probably had fired the prairies as early as they could for hunting purposes. It was some time in the latter part of September. We began to see the advancing fire towards evening on the prairie, three miles west of us; and, before twelve o'clock, it became a serious affair. The wind was from the south-west, and pretty strong, and the fire progressed rapidly. The blaze and burning fragments being blown by the wind, caught the tops of the high grass, and the raging fire continued to advance so swiftly that a deer would hardly escape it. About nine o'clock in the evening it reached the woods, which extended back from the Lake half a mile, when the rich foliage and fallen leaves fed the flame to a great height. Some precaution had been used for the protection of our shanties and stacks of hay; but we saw, as the flood of flame poured in, that we were not sufficiently prepared. Coverlets and blankets were thrown into the water, and spread over the hay for its safety. The roaring terror came through the woods with awful grandeur. Large trees, as well as all smaller vegetation, quickly fell before the ruthless invader. This was when the