

the boat passed down the river, our six-pounder was made three times to hit her, twice on the side, and once in the stern, but it soon got beyond our reach. Had we manned some of our boats and pursued, we could undoubtedly have taken it, as we afterward learned that it leaked so badly, that the Americans had to stop at the mouth of the Wisconsin and repair it. The only injury the firing of the gun-boat did, was a ball, before noon, striking a fence-post, some of the slivers of which inflicted a flesh wound in the thigh of one of the Menomonees.

While this contest was progressing with the gun-boat, McKay's party of whites and Indians, on all sides of the fort, kept up an irregular firing of small arms, which, from their great distance from the fort, was harmless; and thus if they did no harm, they were out of the way of receiving any in turn. At length towards noon, Col. McKay ordered his men to advance over the Marais St. Freol, a swampy spot, and take position much nearer the fort—not more than a quarter of a mile distant. This was obeyed by those on the lower side of the fort, who had a sufficiency of houses to shield them from the guns of the garrison. From this new position, the firing was somewhat increased. But the men under Rolette and Anderson, with the Sioux and Winnebagoes, on the upper side of the fort, kept at a safe distance, fully half a mile off, but they really needed no protection, at that distance, against small arms. In the fort were four iron cannon, somewhat larger than six-pounders, and these were occasionally fired.* Whenever Capt. Rolette would see the flash of the cannon, he would give the rather un-military order of "*Down, my*

Western Country, unite in stating that his party had taken position on an island opposite to Prairie du Chien, covered with timber, which served to screen them from the shots of the gun-boat. This appears quite probable.

L. C. D.

*Probably there was not much ammunition in the fort, and they wished to be sparing of it, for closer action, if it should come to that; for it has been stated, that the gun-boat contained the magazine of powder, and that had departed.

L. C. D.