

men!—Down!” A couple of Winnebagoes discovering that there were some hams in a house, which had been deserted, and to which they could not gain an entrance, mounted upon the roof, intending to tear off some shingles, when they were espied from the fort, and each wounded in the thigh, when they quickly retreated from their exposed situation.

The second day the men and Indians amused themselves with some long shooting, but Col. McKay and his officers spent the day in counselling as to the best course of procedure. It was pretty much resolved to make an assault, and towards evening assembled the leading Indian chiefs, and laid the plan of an assault before them, when the Winnebago chief Sar-cel, or *The Teal*, remarked, that he and his people remembered too well taking part with the Shawanoes in assaulting an American fort, and were beaten back with terrible slaughter—probably alluding to the attack on Fort Recovery,* in Wayne's Indian war in 1793, and they would not like to resort to so hazardous an experiment; but proposed a better and safer way—to spring a mine from the river bank, and blow up the garrison. Col. McKay did not waste words unnecessarily, but simply replied “Go at it.” Teal and his Winnebagoes spent a part of the evening digging, but found their progress in undermining was slow, and after penetrating a dozen or fifteen feet, they gave it up as a bad job. As the fort was several hundred feet from the river bank, it would have been an interminable operation for the Indians to have attempted to prosecute their scheme to completion.

Nothing of moment occurred the third day—as usual some little firing was done. Col. McKay sent into the country about three miles for a load of straw, which was made up into small bundles to have in readiness to place in the darkness of night, with kegs of powder, near the fort, and fire

*Pesheu, or *The Wild Cat*, and Sar-cel, once got into a wrangle in which their bravery was called in question, when Pesheu put on a clincher by saying to Sar-cel, “Don't you remember the time we aided the Shawanoes in attacking the fort, that you ran off so fast that you lost your breech-clout?”