

annual circuit to Prairie du Chien, to attend court, I concluded to make it a matter of pleasure as well as business. I accordingly obtained a good sized and substantial North-west bark canoe—about five fathoms, or thirty feet, in length, and five feet wide in the centre—a good tent, or “markee,” together with mattresses, blankets, bedding, mess basket, and all things required as an “outfit” on such expeditions. The party consisted of my wife, self, two small children, two young ladies as companions, and a servant girl; my crew, of four Canadians—experienced men and good singers—and two Menomonee Indians as bow and steersmen. The canoe was propelled both by oars and paddles. We ascended the Fox River to Fort Winnebago, and descended the Wisconsin to the Mississippi, and thence up the latter four miles to Prairie du Chien. The voyage occupied eight or nine days in going, and about the same length of time in returning—during which the ladies “camped out” every night save two. They did all the cooking and *household* work; the former was no small item—for, with appetites sharpened by pure air and exercise, and with abundance of fresh venison, with fowl, and fish, to satisfy them, the quantity of viands consumed by the party would have astonished modern epicures, and perhaps shock the delicate tastes of city belles. We frequently encamped early in the afternoon—at some spot which attracted our attention from its natural beauty, or romantic appearance—and strolled along the bank of the stream, plucking beautiful wild flowers, which abounded, or clambering up some high bluff or commanding headland, obtained a view of the surrounding country, and traced the meandering stream through its high banks, far in the distance. It was in the merry month of May, when the forest was clothed in its deepest verdure—the hills and prairies redolent with flowers, and the woods tenanted by melodious songsters. It was truly a “trip of pleasure” and enjoyment. Many trips for pleasure have been undertaken, where parties may have experienced the refinements and accommodations and enjoyed the luxuries to be found, in the present day, in old and long