

and, about four o'clock in the afternoon, came in sight of the dreaded fort, nine miles in front of us. Prudence directed the shoving of our boats into the rushes, and await the night. We hailed an Indian passing, and impressed him as our guide or pilot. In a straight line it was fifteen miles, which would require us to pass immediately under the garrison's guns, and beneath the high bank, so as to be out of reach of the revenue officer; but, to be on the safe side we took the deep bay route on the northern side of the island—increasing our night's work five miles, no trifling matter for people in a hurry.

About day-light it blew hard, a heavy sea arose, and my boat sprang a leak. Had [not] the guard kept a good look-out, we would have been discovered; but another and a strong pull took us out of view around Point St. Ignace, where we repaired my boat, boxed up the guns, and proceeded fearlessly on our journey. At Green Bay we spent two days giving Mr. Jacob Franks and Mr. John Lawe their outfits of goods. Mr. Dickson and the two Airds went above the Falls of St. Anthony for their trading grounds; Mr. Wilmot, second in command of the combination, chose for himself Rolette and Anderson to winter on the island where Red Whale prevented Lieutenant Pike from whipping one of his soldiers. Wilmot and Rolette had never wintered with the Sioux before, and thought it would be safer to have the protection of a fort for a trading-post; and though a novel notion in this part of the country, it must be done. It nearly cost me my life. The necessary stores and dwellings forming three sides of a square, and stout oak pickets the other.

This year, following the custom of the country, which I had hitherto resisted, I took to live with me a little half-breed. When the Indians came out from their winter hunting grounds in spring, they formed about three hundred lodges. They encamped immediately about the fort; and after the trading was over, the usual bonus of high wines was issued to them. This was done in the morning; and, immediately after, our head man (Wilmot) started to visit another band of Indians, taking with him twelve out of our full strength—sixteen in all; thus leaving me with two white men and a negro, to meet the storm which