

undulating, moving mass—tens of thousands of heavy, powerful beasts were fleeing from their hated enemies. But all had been put under Adam's control. I had not had a fair shot. In due time we returned home.

The wild fowl season came, and I practiced on them until the ice shut them off, and they disappeared; then followed a few days of muskrat hunting, when winter shut me in. Not a book or paper of any kind to beguile and shorten the tedium of the season; a little trapping, and one snow-shoe trip of sixty miles to visit my nearest neighbor; then making oars and paddles to wear off the winter. Finally the Indian hunters came in, trade was soon over; my little half-breed took off my little boy and girl to her friends, and I never saw her again. My boat was repaired, and about the twentieth of March, 1814, I left the river St. Peter's, with full intent to return to the trade, not, of course, knowing what a kind Providence had in store for me.

Arriving at Prairie du Chien, I, as usual, deposited such articles as I would require for the next winter's trade; and after feasting eight or ten days at my friend, Mons. Brisbois', on thickened milk and sugar, I started for Mackinaw. It being early in the season, and hard work for the men to stem the strong current of the Ouisconsin River, I permitted them to go on leisurely, stopping along the sand banks to collect turtles' eggs, which were excellent eating, and to kill rattlesnakes, some of which were very beautiful to behold—at a respectful distance—being about four feet long, with skin of a bright golden color, interspersed with ebony black heart-shaped spots.

But the eating of turtle's eggs was, after a few days, brought to a sudden termination. These eggs are somewhat less in size than a pigeon's. My cook brought me, as usual, a dozen for breakfast. On opening the first one, I observed something coiled in it, like a black hair; but how a hair could get inside of an egg, I could not make out. So I summoned the men to examine the phenomenon. They at once called out, "a snake." I was not aware till then that turtles' and rattlesnakes' eggs were quite similar, and that they both made their deposits in the sand, for the warmth of the sun to hatch; nor did I know how many