

ercise I had experienced, during my wandering mode of life, had toughened my muscles and so completely developed me physically, that I was no mean match for two ordinary men; besides, the desire to behold new scenes, had grown stronger than ever.

It was no other than a natural consequence then, that having heard of Prairie Du Chien, and the "Lead Diggings" south-east of it, that I should have a desire to take a trip up the Mississippi River to the Mineral Region; from where reports came, of fortunes being made by prospecting—these stories formed alluring inducements.

Having some money, and a sound constitution that five years of border life had made capable of enduring any degree of hardship and fatigue, I left St. Louis, and started up the river in a little Ohio steam-boat,—I believe steam-boats commenced running above St. Louis the same year I left, 1825,—loaded with army stores for military posts on the Upper Mississippi. The boat proceeded up stream 'till we reached the mouth of the Illinois River, where we met a keel-boat coming down, on board of which was an express, bound with dispatches for the commanding officer at Jefferson Barracks. They brought reports of Indian murders in the north, and the same boat bearing the dispatches had been attached, and had many ball marks on its sides, also a wounded man on board. The steam-boat took the express aboard, and was about to return with him, to St. Louis, so I bid Captain Bates good-bye, and left his boat. I learned now, that the Mining Region was the scene of the Indian troubles—that the inhabitants were leaving the country through fear, and the greatest misery and confusion prevailed at the "Diggings." So, instead of continuing up the Mississippi as intended, I joined a party of five Frenchmen, who designed going to Green Bay, and having no definite object in view at the time, I agreed to go with them. We had little knowledge of the route, but one of the Frenchmen had somewhere seen an old outline map, and assured us we could reach the Lakes by going up the Illinois river. We had entered the river and gone up a few miles