

John B. Beaubien. It never occurred to me then, that a large city would be built up there. But great changes have taken place during the last thirty-three years. I read that the old log Fort, surrounded with its palisades, was torn down two years ago, and that Chicago is now one of the largest cities in the West. Great changes have I seen in my life; I was mail carrier in the North-West before there was a white settlement between Prairie Du Chien and Fort Snelling—a Government express, and volunteer during the Sauk War—from mere love of adventure, have I wandered through the wilderness of the West. I have explored its lakes and rivers in canoes, boats and on rafts, from Red River in the North to Red River in the South, and to New Orleans. I have traversed its woods and prairies, making myself familiar with Western scenes, the early settlers, and native Indians.

The Indians you now see about town occasionally, all know me. They seldom come down to the Prairie without stopping at my house. It was only three or four weeks ago, that seven Indians came down from Crow Wing. They called on me in the night, and we had a talk together. They said there was no game in the neighborhood of their reservation; that they couldn't work, and so they had come down, and wanted to know how it would do to go and hunt in Iowa, at the head of Cedar River. I told them this universal change, that I have witnessed everywhere, had been going on there also—that the country was filled with settlers, and deer scarce. The poor fellows looked sorrowful. It was late when they left my house; and though I tried to dissuade them from making the attempt, they resolved to go and see their old hunting grounds on the Wisconsin. Many Indians have left their reserve; and I have no doubt that they find shelter in the islands of the Mississippi, and in the Kickapoo timber.

The poor Red Man has been robbed, deceived, and driven from his possession. This I have seen—indeed I have assisted to drive them from their homes. And yet, no person under heaven sympathizes more sincerely with them. They are almost extinct—they are passing from the face of the earth!