

employ of the American Fur Company, who had made the trip. I shall not speak of the incidents that befell us, nor of our several camping scenes, just now, but suffice it to say, that we continued up Fox River into Lake Winnebago; and carrying our canoe across the narrow portage formed by the ridge that separates the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, we launched it in the latter, and were soon gliding down on its swift current, *en route* for the Mississippi. Proceeding on our voyage down the Wisconsin, we descried the beauties of a landscape enhanced by the charms of summer verdure. The bluffs that towered up on either side, as they do now, had never reverberated the shrill whistle of the locomotive, neither were the banks sprinkled with promising villages; but nature remained the same as it had for ages and ages. Now and then could be seen the wigwams of the Winnebagoes, but habitations of the white man there were none. The pale faces up to this time, had not dared to settle on the hunting grounds of the Red Men beyond the protecting influence of some fort. The whole splendid country about Madison contained but one white man, and that was Ebenezer Brigham, who had settled at Blue Mounds the year before I came to Prairie Du Chien.

It was in the summer of 1828, that the canoe came out at the mouth of the Wisconsin River, and then paddling up the Mississippi for three miles, we arrived at the village of Prairie Du Chien at that time limited to the Island over the Slough, consisting of the Old Fort, now gone, and the houses of the people in its neighborhood, some of which are now to be seen. As a correct description of Prairie Du Chien, its appearance, its inhabitants, and its position generally, at that time, (30 years ago), would be interesting, I will give it to you; at the same time I will relate all such incidents, and anecdotes connected with the country or its principal inhabitants, as they may come to mind.

On my arrival at Prairie Du Chien, in June, of 1828 this was no insignificant point in the North-West. The establishment of a military post here by the French, in an earlier day, which as a natural consequence, caused a host of