

Near this Coulee, (at the present day known as "Lime-stone Coulee,") we soon found suitable stone in abundance. There was no difficulty in doing this, for a better quality of stone or more of it, cannot be found, even at this day, than is in the bluffs south of McGregor. The place picked out, and we had nothing more to do, but to return to the Fort.

The men who were with me were both stone-masons, one was known by the name of Dunbar, a lively, fearless fellow, ready for any mischief; the other as Baird, a timid person, who was afraid of Indians, of dying, drowning—in fact, anything that had any affinity to danger. It was a warm, sultry day, and we continued to loiter in the cool shade, 'neath the bluffs, conversing, lolling on the grass, occasionally jerking a piece of rock out on the mirror-like surface of the Mississippi, (that being the way we worked for Government,) until about four o'clock in the afternoon. I had prophesied a storm that day, on account of the calm; but my predictions *sometimes* failed, and no attention was paid to my remark, until we heard a deep, distant rumble, and Baird jumped up and said, "what's that?" I knew that it was the coming storm, for lying on the ground, I heard the thunder distinctly, and looking up, I saw the fleecy clouds borne on the wind over the bluffs; but, winking at Dunbar, he suggested the howling of wolves. This was very probable, for wolves were more common than they are now, and the wildness of the place gave weight to the idea; but to increase his fright, I attempted to account for the growing darkness and roaring thunder on some volcanic principle. A new terror seized him, and casting a hasty glance up at the wild, rugged, precipitous, bluffs, he implored us to hasten back, and made off in double quick time. It was now time to think of returning, and going down to the pirogue, found Baird crouched in the bottom, shivering with fear. We told him to get in the bow, and trimming the sail, Dunbar took charge of it, while I sat in the stern to steer. We waited for the storm to burst upon us. Drops of rain commenced falling, the river became ruffled, the thunder sounded nearer, at last the storm burst with terrific fury. This was our time—putting out from