

then against the other, bumping along as though it was intoxicated—perhaps that whisky barrel leaked. I cried out to Gardenier to either make fast above me, or pull for the point opposite the Slough. He heard me, and tried to make the opposite shore, but owing to the strong current or some mismanagement, the raft was sucked into the Slough, without touching, and was carried down some distance, and struck on a small tow-head or island. I thought it best to wait until morning before going to them, and quietly ate my supper which Boiseley had prepared. The principal dish of this meal, was a hedge-hog that I had shot. It was cooked by throwing it into the fire whole, and after being perfectly roasted, taken out and all the quills and hair scraped off, and the entrails taken out. After it had undergone this process it looked as nice as any roasted pig I ever saw, and with proper seasoning, it tasted better.

In the morning, I put some food in Boiseley's canoe, and went down to the raft. The men were glad to get the grub, for they had had nothing to eat but the whisky, all night, and you may believe they were not in the best working order. I saw how matters stood, and suggested that the raft be "broke," and towed out of the Slough piece-meal. Gardenier didn't approve of the plan, for he said such a large stream of water must have an out-let somewhere, and he would follow it, and take his risk of getting safe through to the Mississippi River.

At the entrance of this Slough, the Chippewa River forms an elbow, the acute angle of which is the mouth of the Slough. This Slough was indeed a pretty stream of water, wide and deep, with fine banks, and had I not learned better, I would probably have made the same error that the Lieutenant did. I told him, that when we drove the oxen up through the frozen bottoms, I found where the Slough spread out into a wide marsh, and that following it up to the Chippewa, we often came to large piles of drift-wood, that would certainly stop the raft.

It was decided, however, that the raft should go down the Slough, and orders were given to swing her off the island, and