

After ascending these hills, the interior of the country is principally a vast extended prairie. Opposite to Fort Edwards, it is thirty miles wide, and to the north and south, bounded only by the powers of vision, the soil is good and ready for cultivation. The Mississippi is generally from three-fourths of a mile to three miles wide, interspersed with numerous islands clothed with the richest growth of timber, but subject to inundation. The river is no time so low as not to afford water sufficient to float crafts drawing four feet of water. There are two rapids in the river between St. Louis and Prairie du Chien, the first ten miles above Fort Edwards; the second commences at Fort Armstrong and continues about fifteen miles; but neither of them materially obstructs navigation. On the Mississippi about ninety miles from Prairie du Chien, and seven miles from the west side of the river, is a lead mine which is worked by the Fox Indians. The women dig the ore, carry it to the river where they have furnaces, and smelt it. The mine is called De Buke's [Dubuque's] and is very rich and productive. The Indians have lately discovered another in the vicinity, only four feet below the surface, and said to be rich. So deeply rooted is the jealousy of the Indians, that they allow no trader to build his hut on the side of the river in the vicinity of these mines.

The first tribe of Indians after leaving St. Louis is the Ojibwas.* This tribe live about one hundred miles from the west side of the Mississippi, on the Menomonee, and have about four hundred warriors. The next tribe are the Sauks, who live on the Mississippi, and about four hundred miles above St. Louis. They emigrated from the Ouisconsin about thirty-five years ago. Their military strength is about eight hundred warriors, exclusive of old men and boys, and are divided into two divisions of four hundred men. Each division is commanded by a war chief. The first are those who have been most distinguished for deeds of valor, and the second the ordinary warriors. They have also two village chiefs who appear to preside over the civil concerns of the nation. The next tribe is the Fox Indians. This tribe have a few lodges on the east side of the Mississippi near Fort Armstrong,

* Ioways.