

by placing them in a tree, out of reach of any wild animals, and then hunt around in that vicinity until near sundown, when they would return, and camp for the night. The following morning the exploration would be continued, usually on the opposite side of the river, until eight or nine o'clock, when they would again embark and proceed down stream.

Continuing on in this way, in some six or eight days they reached the mouth of the Yellow River, about sixty miles below the rapids, having passed on the route the Grignon trading-post, six miles below Point Bausse, the only house or sign of civilized improvement then existing on the river between this point and the foot of the Dells.

Noticing the dark color of the water in Yellow River,* they were satisfied that it was caused by the existence of a large body of pine timber somewhere on the river above; but after traveling up the stream some four or five miles without finding any pine of consequence, they returned to their camping place. Proceeding down the Wisconsin, they reached the foot of the Dells, and leaving the skiff with Mr. Allen, returned home by land.

Game was found in abundance along the river below Point Bausse, which added materially to their supply of provisions; fresh signs of beavers were also seen below the mouth of the Yellow River, on the east side of the Wisconsin. Nothing particularly attractive, however, was noticed on the trip except indications of pine before mentioned.

In the winter of 1844 and '45, Thomas Weston and John Werner, Jr., both at that time living at the Grand Rapids, concluded, from reports which came to their knowledge, that quite an extensive body of pine timber existed on the Yellow River waters a few miles to the west, and that an exploration of the country in that direction would pay. They accordingly procured the services of Jo. Gill, a Canadian, as guide, and started west, striking the Yellow River about eight miles above the present village of Dexterville, in Wood County. Turning south, they

* This is but the translation of the Winnebago word Necedah—yellow; the beautiful Indian name being perpetuated in the enterprising village located and fostered by Messrs. Weston & Co. The Chippewa name for Yellow River is Kaunewinne, or Buck Horn.