

name of "Sucker." This pleasant life lasted until the month of August. Up to that time our dwellings had been completed and we were surrounded with many comforts, and in our light-heartedness never dreamed of the storm gathering over our heads.

I had claimed the privilege of entertaining our friends on the Fourth of July, when the table was set, and the family assembled. Ours were primitive accommodations. I was carrying a bowl of custard to the table. Mrs. Henry Gratiot was assisting me, carrying some thing, when we saw four tall Indians, with guns in hand, coming up to the house. I was so taken by surprise that the bowl fell from my hands, to the great dismay of the children. I ran in to apprise the gentlemen. The Indians gravely entered, and we were quite relieved when we saw our visitors stack their guns, and accept a share of our dinner, but all appetite and joyousness had fled. It was soon over. Catherine, the interpreter, was sent for. Our husbands remained in close interview with the Indians. They were friendly Winnebago chiefs, who came to tell us that, on account of the encroachments of the whites upon their territory, they could not restrain their young men, who were going to declare war. They did not want to hurt the "Chouteaus," as they called us; but they had best remove their women and children out of harm's way. The news spread like wild-fire, and all was terror and confusion; families were flocking to the Grove from the neighboring "diggings," preparations were making for defense, and a strong stockade was being built around the store and warehouse, which were advantageously situated for defense. On all sides could be heard the stroke of axes felling the trees. We made our preparations to leave with heavy hearts, leaving our husbands to the dangers of Indian warfare.

On the 26th, the teams drove up to take us away. We left our homes with many tears. My husband accompanied us as far as Galena, in the hope of obtaining arms, for the Grove was a place most exposed; but he pleaded in vain. They granted him only some ammunition. Some two weeks