

Jeffreys' map of 1776, a line is drawn from Prairie du Chien to Omaha, and inscribed "French route to the Western Indians."

In 1721, in a report to the British king from the governor of Pennsylvania, it was mentioned as one of the three great routes from Canada to the Mississippi,<sup>1</sup> and in subsequent reports, it was remarked, that "since the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 1748, the French had greatly increased the number of forts on the rivers which run into the Mississippi."<sup>2</sup>

Concerning Prairie du Chien, Captain Carver, who was there in 1766, thus writes:

"This town is a great mart, where tribes from the most remote branches of the Mississippi annually assemble, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to traders."

This traffic was even then no novelty. It had been going on there four score years before. As early as 1680, La Salle had purposed to send traders to that point.<sup>3</sup>

If, then, French forts were early built anywhere, one might well be looked for at such an emporium as early rose at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi. But in our primitive period forts abounded. They were common among Indians, even before the coming of the white men.<sup>4</sup>

La Salle on a march usually at night set a rude stockade about his camp.<sup>5</sup> In 1679, having to wait a few days on the St. Joseph for a party of his men, he built a fort at the mouth of the river.<sup>6</sup> In 1682, he built another fort near Memphis, on a bluff, where he halted only six days, and where he expected to make a still shorter sojourn.<sup>7</sup> Nor does his custom of rearing a stronghold wherever he stopped, appear to have been unusual among French pioneers.

Every trading-house was fortified so far as possible. Cadot's, at the Sault, is called a fort, by Carver. The estab-

<sup>1</sup> *Colonial Records of New York*, v, p. 162.

<sup>2</sup> *Colonial History of New York*, ii, p. 608.

<sup>3</sup> Parkman, p. 262.

<sup>4</sup> La Potherie, ii, p. 96; Parkman's *La Salle*, p. 266; Bradbury, *Travels*, 114.

<sup>5</sup> Parkman, p. 398.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, p. 149.

<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, p. 277.