

persed therein merchandise in various directions. The Indians also sold them at the same time a tract of land measuring six leagues up and down the river, and six leagues back of it. The village contains between thirty and forty houses, and on the tract just mentioned about thirty-two families, so that the whole settlement contains about 100 families.¹ The men are generally French Canadians, who have mostly married Indian wives; perhaps not more than twelve white females are to be found in the settlement.

These people attend to the cultivation of their lands, which are extremely fertile. They raise considerable quantities of surplus produce, particularly wheat and corn. They annually dispose of about eighty thousand weight of flour to the traders and Indians, besides great quantities of meal, and the quantity of surplus produce would be greatly increased if a suitable demand existed for it. All kinds of vegetables flourish in great perfection, and such is the beauty of the climate that the country begins to attract the attention of settlers. Different fruit trees have lately been planted and promise to grow well.

Prairie des Chiens is surrounded by numerous Indian tribes, who wholly depend on it for their supplies. It is annually visited by at least six thousand Indians,² and hith-

at Prairie du Chien, at least a century earlier than the advent of the three adventurers above named, will be found in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x.,— articles by James D. Butler, Consul W. Butterfield, and Lyman C. Draper.— Ed.

¹ Pike, in 1805-6 (*Expeditions*, p. 46, appendix to part i.), said that the town proper then consisted of "eighteen dwelling-houses in two streets; sixteen in Front street and two in First street." These, with other houses, "in the rear of the pond," and "scattered round the country, at the distance of one, two, three and five miles," together with three houses on the west side of the Mississippi, made, "in the village and vicinity, thirty-seven houses, which it will not be too much to calculate at ten persons each, the population would be 370 souls; but this calculation will not answer for the spring or autumn, as there are then at least 500 or 600 white persons." The settlement had apparently not made much progress, between 1805 and 1811.— Ed.

² Doubtless an exaggeration. Pike, after stating, in 1805-6, that as many as five hundred or six hundred whites rendezvoused at the prairie each spring and autumn, says that in the spring the gathering of the traders