

plenty of fine timber and good water. But as the Indians are numerous a garrison at that place will require at least two companies of men. The Sacs, Foxes, and Iowas can be as well supplied at the latter place as at the former, particularly as they have mostly abandoned the chase, except to furnish themselves with meat, and turned their attention to the manufacture of lead, which they procure from a mine about sixty miles below Prairie des Chiens.<sup>1</sup> During the last season they manufactured four hundred thousand pounds of that article, which they exchanged for goods. The Sioux and other Indians in that quarter have excellent mines, and might be easily prevailed on to open them, especially as the profits of this manufacture is much greater and less precarious than the laborious pursuit of peltries. A few tools will be necessary for them, and perhaps a blacksmith to repair them would be of great use.

As soon as the Indians in general turn their attention to lead, the Canadian traders will wholly abandon the country, as they have no use for that article, at least in the way of commerce. To introduce the manufacture of lead, requires only the adoption of the measures I have mentioned. The factory at Prairie des Chiens ought to be well supplied with goods, and lead ought to be received in exchange for the merchandise. This trade would be the more valuable to the United States, as lead is not a perishable article, and is easily transported; whereas peltries are bulky, and large quantities are annually spoiled before they reach the market; under such a system, the Canadian trade would be extinguished.

William Morris, Esq<sup>r</sup>, of Kaskaskia,<sup>2</sup> I have no doubt,

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<sup>1</sup> See "Notes on Early Lead-Mining in the Fever-River Region," *post.*—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Boilvin means William Morrison, who settled at Kaskaskia as a trader in 1790. He was the leading spirit of the firm of Bryant and Morrison; his partner being Guy Bryant, his uncle, a resident of Philadelphia. The firm had an extensive wholesale and retail establishment at Kaskaskia, which obtained supplies from St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau and New Madrid; their trade extended as far off as Pittsburg, New Orleans and the Rocky mountains, and Prairie du Chien was one of their most active posts. Bryant and Morrison's boats were "the largest and best that up to that time had ever stemmed the waters of the Mississippi." Morrison, who had rare