

fectly useless. I found that the enemy had a small fort, situated on a small hill immediately behind the village, with two block houses perfectly safe from Indians, and that they had six pieces cannon and sixty or seventy effective men, officers included. That lying at anchor in the middle of the Mississippi, immediately in front of the fort, a very large gunboat, called Governor Clark, gunboat No. 1. She mounts 14 pieces cannon, some six, three, and a number of cohorns, is manned with 70 or 80 men with fire-arms, and measures 70 feet keel. This floating blockhouse is so constructed that she can be rowed in any direction, the men on board being perfectly safe from small arms while they can use their own to the greatest advantage. She goes remarkably fast, particularly down the current, being rowed by 32 oars.

At half past 12 o'clock I sent Capt. Anderson, with a flag of truce to invite them to surrender, which they refused. My intention was not to have made an attack till next morning at daylight, but it being impossible to control the Indians I ordered our gun to play upon the gunboat, which she did with a surprising good effect, for in the course of three hours, the time the action lasted, she fired 86 rounds, two-thirds of which went into the Governor Clark. They kept up a constant fire upon us, both from the boat and fort; we were about an hour between two fires, having run our gun up within musket shot of the fort, from whence we beat the boat out of her station. She cut her cable and ran down the current and sheltered under an island. We were obliged to desist, it being impossible with our little barges to attempt to board her and our only gun in pursuit of her would have exposed our whole camp to the enemy. She therefore made her escape.

I immediately sent off a canoe with three men, an Ioway that came from Mackinac with me and two of six Sauks that joined me in the Fox River. I gave them four kegs gunpowder and ordered them to pass the gunboat and get as soon as possible to the rapids at the Rock River, where it is generally believed the gunboat will run aground, and have all the Sauks assembled to annoy the men and prevent their debarking to get firewood, &c. The next morning I