

gunboat, but more surely must have been killed and wounded from the great number of shots that went into her. I take the liberty to refer you to Robert Dickson, Esquire, for his opinion respecting my information of the Puants.

Report says that 400 Cavalry are about this time to leave St. Louis for here; if so, they will give us our hands full.

I send this by Indians express to the Green Bay from whence I have directed Mr. Porlier to send off a canoe to Mackinac. I adopt this method being the shortest route, from here by land the Indians will reach the Bay in four days and four from that to Mackinac, which is the shortest passage that can possibly be expected.

My force here at present amounts to about 300 strong, that is 200 Michigans, Volunteers and Militia and 100 Sioux, So-teux, Court Oreilles and Puants.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. MCKAY,

Lt.-Colonel Commanding.

Supplement.—After my despatches were gone about ten minutes a few Sauks arrived from the Rapids at the Rock River with two Canadians and bring the following information. On the 21st instant six American barges, three of which were armed, were coming up and camped in the Rapids that night; that in the course of the night the party of Indians having the four kegs gunpowder I sent from this on the 17th reached them. The barges being camped at short distances from each other, they on the 22nd early in the morning attacked the lower, they killed about one hundred persons, took five pieces cannon, burnt the barge, and the other barges seeing this disaster and knowing there were British troops here run off. This is perhaps one of the most brilliant actions fought by Indians only since the commencement of the war. I think now there is little danger here for the present, but I have not the smallest doubt but an attempt will be made either this fall or early in the spring. I will send off to-morrow for the cannon, the size cannot be properly ascertained but from the description the Indians give