

corn, squash, potatoes, melons, and cucumbers in great abundance and good tobacco. On the low lands by the river great quantities of wild oats grow. In the spring when the water is high, canoes pass without unloading; in the middle of the carrying-place one sees the separation of the current, part of which falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and part into the Gulf of Mexico. The distance from the portage to the Mississippi is sixty leagues, about two leagues from where the Ouisconsin falls into the Mississippi there is a meadow of about three leagues in width called Prairie du Chien. Here a good number of families are settled. They have lately got cattle from the Illinois and begin to raise wheat."

He then proceeded to describe the settlements down the Mississippi as far as New Orleans, and the state and numbers of the Spanish garrison, apparently from personal observation, and concluded with a few remarks upon the Indians of the Northwest.

"The Ottawas or Court Oreilles," he said, "reside chiefly on the south side of Lake Michigan, they are a political and dangerous set and have much influence with the other tribes. The Chippewas or Saukteaux extend over a vast tract of country and are very numerous. No other nations are found round Lakes Superior and Huron. The Folles Avoines or Minomonees live chiefly at LaBaye. They are not numerous but are esteemed a brave nation by the others. In autumn they generally leave LaBaye and winter on the upper parts of the Mississippi and Ouisconsin."

About this time, Mr. Dickson seems to have served as the channel of communication between the Spanish governor of New Orleans and the British governor of Upper Canada, and in a letter of January 2, 1794, the Baron de Carondelet remarks in opening the correspondence that "being persuaded that it is to the interest of the English that the Illinois remain in the hands of Spain, he turns to him (Simcoe) for assistance."

The next twenty years of Dickson's life were spent almost without interruption in the Indian country. Those