

come indifferent about the matter, and, indeed, most of them had made up their minds quietly to submit, for they saw no other way of saving their lives, and the little property which had been left to them. The depredations of the Indians had almost ruined them, and any change would be better than to be left unprotected, and at the mercy of the savages who hovered round the settlement, pilfering everything they could lay their hands upon. On the opening of the spring of 1814, the arrival of a large quantity of Indian presents, and a supply of arms and ammunition for themselves, followed by the welcome news that Dickson was expected to arrive in the course of a week or ten days, had the desired effect of arousing the people from the state of despondency into which they had fallen. The inhabitants now began to congratulate themselves that their troubles were over, and to rejoice that they had now arms and ammunition wherewith to defend their homes and their little ones from the savage attacks of the Indians.

In the course of time Dickson arrived at Prairie du Chien, much to the satisfaction of the people, some of whom at once waited upon him with a statement of their losses and sufferings during his absence, which he promised to forward to the governor and commander-in-chief. Many of the most influential inhabitants also called upon him, and in earnest and most respectful terms pointed out the necessity of taking immediate steps to put the place in a proper state of defense. In reply Dickson assured them that he would do all in his power, but he did not think there was any cause of alarm, for the Americans would not venture up until the summer; by that time everything would be placed in proper order to meet the enemy. It was his intention to place a large body of Indians down the river, who would attack and prevent any force the Americans might send from ascending the rapids at the Rock river, for it would be a piece of folly to permit the enemy to come up the river. As to the defense of the village, they must be prepared to defend their homes themselves. Arms and ammunition had been supplied to them for that special