

purpose. They were to obey Captain Dease's orders, and place themselves under his command.

From that hour no more was heard of Dickson's plans; that gentleman was too much occupied in distributing the immense quantity of Indian presents, and dispatching them to the different tribes throughout the country, to trouble himself about the safety of the settlement. The fact was, he had no confidence in the inhabitants of Prairie du Chien. He relied entirely upon his Indian allies, on whom he lavished his good-will in the shape of presents from the government stores. Nothing, in Dickson's estimation, was too good for them. What pleased him still more was to sit in state at grand councils, and address the Indians in the name of their Great Father, the king, holding out to them promises in the name of the government, which he must have known could not be fulfilled. On the other hand, he seldom lost an opportunity of showing his contempt for the half-breed population in the settlement. As time passed on, and these people saw no visible preparations made towards protecting the post, beyond placing a small guard of Indians some miles down the river, they were far from being satisfied. Dickson's total indifference in regard to their fate only increased their discontent. There were those who shook their heads and said, "Some day, when he least expected it, he would suddenly awake to the fact that the country which had been intrusted to his care was in immediate danger of passing into the hands of the enemy." But all these warnings were lost upon Dickson. He treated their advice with contempt, and lulled himself into the fatal supposition that the country was safe as long as he had control of its affairs, depending entirely upon his Indian warriors to prevent the enemy from ascending the rapids.

The inhabitants of Prairie du Chien, being thus fully aware of the antipathy and inactivity of their would-be king, and alarmed by a rumour that a large force of the Americans had left St. Louis and were on their way up the river, collected their little valuables and prepared for in-