

tained the falls were near. We soon gained the other side of the Island and descended to the first break in the river where we landed on the rocks. Here white sand stone overlaid with secondary limestone appears for the first time since leaving L. Superior. The water falling over this rock must rapidly wear it away. The Falls are about 30 ft. perpendicular. There are 3 Islands at about equal distance, at the foot of the perpendicular fall. The river below is 171 yards wide.

Few Cataracts present as pleasing a view as this. The scenery is grand and beautiful; the green groves which cover the Islands and the west bank, a verdant prairie rising on the east, and the broken rapid below the fall, add greatly to the view.

It is 9 miles by water and 7 by land from St. Peters to the Fall. The encampment of the 5th Regt. Infy. wintered last season in log huts which they flung up on their arrival on the lower bank of the St. Peters.<sup>1</sup> It is on a rich bottom which produces luxuriantly. The prairie rises gradually in the rear to the usual height of the country, and has strongly the appearance of well cultivated farms. During the last winter the troops were taken with the scurvy, with which 40 out of 100 men died, before the least relief was found. It was at length arrested and cured by making strong decoctions of hemlock boughs. The troops subsisted entirely on salted provisions, without any vegetables, which is supposed to have caused their ill health. Not certain however but the situation of the encampment and the waters of the St. Peters which they were compelled to use, might also, in part, originate the sickness, early in the Spring Col. Leavenworth discovered the fountain of water where the troops now are, & to which they moved as soon as the ice would permit. It is a healthy situation, about 200 feet above the river, and the

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<sup>1</sup> The troops, under Col. Leavenworth, left Detroit in the spring of 1819, and proceeding by the way of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, where garrisons were left, ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of the St. Peters, reaching there just in time to erect huts for the winter.—Ed.