

eaters of wild rice). The Winnebagoes, proving most troublesome, the French and Manomenies turned their arms against them, and having killed a number, drove them to the Winnebago Lake and the Rock river, where they have ever since resided. The soil on both sides of the river is very fine and the fine wheat fields and gardens give it every appearance of a rich and fertile country. The river abounds with fish, particularly a species of sturgeon, which exceeds that of James river,¹ in the richness and delicacy of its flavor, and in the spring and fall myriads of water fowl, attracted by the wild rice, darken the air. This plant springs up in water six or seven feet deep, so thick, as in many places to impede the progress of boats and canoes. The Indians call it Ma-no-men² and living almost entirely on it, they have received from the French the appellation of Faulsavains, or Wild Rice Eaters. When the head becomes ripe they pass through it with their canoes, and bending them over, strike them with small sticks, and in a very short time nearly fill their canoes with the grain. This, when cleaned, becomes an excellent article of diet, scarcely inferior to the rice of the south. Everything at present bears a peaceable aspect, but how long this state of things will continue is very uncertain. Without a great deal of circumspection on the part of the Indian department, and a chain of posts always properly garrisoned, I have little hesitation in saying, that our frontier again will witness the horrors of savage warfare.— The Winnebagoes, it is manifest, are decidedly opposed to our making any establishment in this country, as are also a part of the Faulsavains. Nothing, I believe, but the strong force they have to combat, keeps them quiet.—The storm is murmuring at a distance, which I am fearful will, sooner or later, burst on us with all the accumulated horrors of savage vengeance. To give you an idea of the present feelings of the Indians, I enclose a

¹ In Virginia.— Ed.

² See *ante*, p. 429.— Ed.