

and none could be obtained of any kind at the village. I therefore concluded to return to the trader's house (who had at this time a small establishment at the village and a clerk there) about one hundred miles down the river and there remain until A. should return, as I had heard that he was somewhat disposed or desirous to have his people instructed. In addition, whilst I was at the trader's A's head men sent down a request for me to come up when their chief should return and lay the subject before him. The particular object of my visit had not been made known to them at this time as those head men were not at the village when we were there; but they had heard that I had some subject which I wished to lay before their chief. At the trader's house (A Mr. William Phelps)<sup>1</sup> I was sick one week. It was here also that Dr. W. and myself agreed to separate as he wished to return to his friends and thought that it would not be of much use for him to remain. In this opinion we were unanimous and parted bidding each other God speed.

Mr. Phelps, although a professed infidel in sentiment, still was friendly to my object, treated me with great hospitality and would take no pay for my board whilst I staid. He and a brother of his also are trading in opposition to the Am[erican] F[ur] Co. and it rather operated to our advantage than otherwise. And Mr. P. declared that if something was not done soon for the Sacs &c. they would all be swept off.

And now I have embodied the most interesting facts and occurrences which I was able to obtain and which occurred during my tour. It is but duty to remark that in every place I received every mark of kindness which I could desire, particularly from Christians; and God's watchful care over me in preserving my life and health upon a tour by

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<sup>1</sup> In *History of Wapello County, Iowa* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1878), pp. 343 *et seq.*, Maj. John Beach, formerly Indian agent, contributes an early history of Indians and the fur trade on the Des Moines River. He makes frequent references to Keokuk, "Appanoose," and "Capt. Billy Phelps, of jovial memory;" on pp. 361-363 is related a typical frontier anecdote, in which Phelps plays a trick on Governor Lucas.—Ed.