

ness as ferryman and tavern-keeper. For some reason, possibly the unprofitableness of the business, he soon sold out to Robert Grignon, who employed young Augustin Grignon, a natural half-breed son of the old trader, to manage the business for him. In 1835, he sold out to James Knaggs, a Pottawattomie half-breed, who had been for six years in the company's employ at Point Boss. I was at the Bay at the time, and I remember receiving a letter from my father, directing me to go and settle up accounts with Knaggs, as the latter was going out on an independent venture. I went, and soon after, Knaggs started to take possession of his Algoma property, having a good stock of "Indian goods;"—a stock, however, which soon dwindled down, as by that time the trading business was commencing to be far from profitable.

An impression exists that the old fur traders waxed very rich, but an erroneous one it is, I most solemnly assure you. "White man's unsartin!" is the Yankee translation of a common Indian proverb—but the Indian is himself still more uncertain. A universal scheme of credit existed among the earlier traders, whose tenure to the land on which they located was dependent on the good-will of the savages. After loading down his squaws with blankets, provisions, and trinkets, the Indian would most invariably say: "No money, now; no furs; I pay you when hunt is over," and, turning on his heel, would set up the line of march through the door. Coming back in a few moments, he would assume a sorrowful face, "How *can* I pay you, when I have no gun, no traps, no kettle. And my son and my brother and my father have no gun or traps. So lend me some." His demands were generally obeyed. The fellow might die from accident or disease that winter, or never come to see the trader again—and always lose some of the articles lent, and return the rest in a wretched condition. Transportation to the posts, also, was ever attendant with many losses; leakage, damage of craft in going over the rapids of the Lower Fox, mutiny of the Indian oar- and pole-men, and frequent strikes for higher pay, whenever it was known