

tage on the 15th, and as many of them had not yet arrived, our force was much smaller than he expected. He after a good deal of entreaty prevailed on our Commanding Officer to wait for one day the arrival of this reinforcement. This, the latter was induced to do, not so much from the value of the increase he expected to our forces, as from his having promised on leaving Mackinac, to give the S. any indulgences he could safely allow him. This being decided upon, we proceeded only about a league and a half, and encamped at the river Burrabo. Here the Chiefs assembled around our Commanding Officer who was seated under the shade of an Oak, and began to make a great many long speeches according to their custom. The whole import of which was "that they were very poor, much in want of supplies, and that their Chiefs were now determined to be faithful to their English Father." To which our Commander replied, "that he had not time at present to make long speeches or councils, that they ought to have taken this resolution long ago for their own good; and that he was surprised to see the Children of their English Father allow the enemy to pass through their villages unmolested; and that as soon as he had driven the enemy away from Prairie du Chêne he hoped to see their Chiefs, when he would give them a little ammunition, and they might tell their mind freely."

On Friday the 15th of July we set off early, and in the evening reached Detour des Pines—22½ leagues. Nothing very important occurred during the day; only that the Serpell was becoming every day more and more troublesome for provisions; and the other Indians amused themselves singing war songs, and imploring the Great Spirit to give them courage and assist in destroying their enemy, and that they themselves might return to their villages unhurt.

On the 16th, after advancing 26 leagues, we were compelled by a thunder storm to put up for the night at Petit Village. During this day a Crane happening to fly over the brigade, several shots were fired by the Indians, although positive orders had been issued forbidding them to fire, and the Indian war cry resounded from every canoe. A party of the soldiers who had been stationed for the purpose of enforcing obedience, had to dash through the brigade, and break the guns and paddles of such as they discovered to have disobeyed the orders. This morning Lieutenant Brisbois, Mr. A. Grignon with a party of Indians were dispatched in advance to reconnoitre, and get all the information they could, respecting the situation of the enemy.

The next morning at one o'clock we got under way, and proceeded as far as Petit Gris, about 3 leagues from the village of Prairie du Chêne, where we found our reconnoitering party waiting for us. They had taken a Mr. Antoine Brisbois, from whom we learned that the Fort which is situated on an elevated spot immediately in rear of the village, mounted six pieces of cannon, and was manned with about 60 regular troops besides officers. There was also a strong built Gun Boat of about 60 feet keel, mounting 14 pieces of cannon, and about 60 or 70 men on board, lying in the river in front of the Fort, and in such a position as to be beyond the reach of small arms. On receiving this information our plan of attack was decided upon. We