

to the recent loss of part of his family, aggravated by a very painful calculous disease under which he was then labouring, and which had induced him to visit the fort in hopes of obtaining relief from the surgeon of the garrison.

Having always traded with the Chippewas, married among them, and been considered as connected with them, he had entertained great apprehensions of the Dacotas; for the Indians generally extend to those that trade with their enemies the same animosity which they bear to those nations. About a year before the time when we saw him, he was residing at Pembina on Red river. Provisions became so scarce at that place, that the settlers were reduced to live upon lettuce seasoned with salt; about one hundred and fifty of them had gone out to hunt buffalo, and he at last resolved to go and join them, with four of the settlers and his family, consisting of two daughters. They had travelled five days across the prairie, killing game enough for a bare subsistence, and keeping a constant guard for fear of being surprised by the Yanktons, who rove over those prairies. The extent to which he carried his precautions shows the deep presentiment which oppressed him at the time; often, as he informed us himself, after his party had passed over the top of a gentle swell or little elevation in the prairie, he would cause them to halt, while he would turn back, and crawl along the ground to the top of the hill, then, raising his head above the surface, concealing it at the same time behind a little grass which he had cut for the purpose, observe whether there were Indians to be seen in any direction. His friends ridiculed his fears, and two of them separated from him, but the event proved how well-founded his apprehensions were. On the 6th day his horse having broken the halter by which he was fast-