

Wisconsin where it joins the Mississippi, to cut off the enemy's retreat should they attempt to descend the latter river. This order was however found unnecessary, for on Captain Rolett's coming up with the Sercell about 2 leagues ahead of us, he learned from him that the enemy had disembarked all their stores and were quietly residing in the houses in the village and Fort, without the least suspicion that any attack against them was in contemplation. When this intelligence was communicated to our Commanding Officer, he very properly countermanded the order, being apprehensive that if so many Indians were seen skulking about the village it might excite alarms and induce the enemy to make off, the very object he was desirous of preventing. In the course of this day, six other Seiks joined us and brought two scalps along with them. The distance we had advanced this day was 13 leagues. On the 12th of July we proceeded 14 leagues, and encamped within 4 leagues of the carrying place, which led us into the river Wisconsin as above mentioned. During this day we were joined by a number of small parties of wretched looking half starved Indians. They were very clamorous for clothing, goods, &c. but the Commanding Officer succeeded in putting them off, by telling them that "people going to war never looked for goods; it was only old women who wanted clothing; and that such as were ashamed to be seen naked might return to their corn fields, he would not take them to war."

On Wednesday the 13th July we set off at the usual hour and reached the carrying place, commonly called "the Portage de Wisconsin" at 10 o'clock. Here we found a number of Indians waiting for us according to appointment, principally Puans and a few Potawatamies, all of whom were exceedingly active in assisting to get the baggage, stores and boats over the carrying place, so that by eight o'clock at night the whole was safely across. Here a party of the Black River Indians joined us; but after distributing ammunition to them and sending a present to the Black Hawk their Chief, they were sent back to request him to intercept a party of the enemy which he heard was ascending the Mississippi under Major Campbell to reinforce the Garrison at Fort Shelby. Three hundred and fifty Indians of the Winibago tribe also joined us; but as they had their families along with them, there was no possibility of ascertaining the exact amount of our effective force.

On the morning of the 14th of July the whole brigade was again afloat on the river Wisconsin.—A small portion of ammunition was issued to the Indians to enable them to hunt for their subsistence, and every thing was prepared for our advance. Our Commanding Officer in consultation with the Indian Chiefs required what they term a *party of soldiers*, composed of a few smart fellows selected from each tribe, whose duty it is to act as an advanced guard. They were to keep at some distance ahead in one or two canoes and in the event of making any discovery, to notify it to the rest of the brigade by the *soldiers' yell*.

The Sercell in sending out his orders to the different tribes on his way from Michilimackinac had desired them to assemble at the Por-