

From the first day Mr. Henry had reached Fort Michilimackinac he had entertained a strong desire to advance farther into this immense continent. This was a project so daring in its aspect—and as he well knew, surrounded with so many difficulties, that it was sufficient to appal the courage of a mind not indured, with more than common vigour. This part of the country had remained the hunting ground of the wandering Indian, and had been hitherto unvisited by any Europeans except some few of the French Fur traders. From these last he knew; (from what he had experienced at Michilimackinac) he could expect nothing but the discouragement which their jealousies prompted them to circulate; and the undetermined state in which the English government and the Indians then were, precluded the hope of his relying on these last for much friendship or favour. It was, therefore under all these circumstances, as we have already mentioned, an undertaking which would have appalled a mind, not possessing a more than common share of fortitude and determination. But the accomplishment of this was one of the chief objects he had determined upon, and all the vigor of his powerful mind seems to have been directed to effect it.

As a prelude to his more extensive plans, on the 15th day of May, we find him leaving Fort Michilimackinac on a visit to the Sault de Sainte Marie, the first Englishman who had ever proceeded so far.—He arrived on the 19th of the same month, at this place; which was then occupied by a small garrison, the same as under the French government. The commanding officer who held the title of gouverneur, was nothing more than a clerk, who managed the Fur trade on behalf of the government; and it was during this season that a party of military first came to take possession for the British government, under the command of Lieut. Janette.

He intended to pass the winter here; but after it was advanced as late as the 22d of December, this plan was defeated by a calamitous fire which destroyed the governor's house along with their provision store and nearly all their stock of winter provisions. On this occasion, Mr. Henry displayed a strong instance of that courage and presence of mind for which he was so conspicuous, when surrounded with the greatest dangers. The alarm of fire was given at 1 o'clock in the morning, on which he started from his bed and ran to the governor's quarters, where it had first broke out. Finding that officer still in bed, he broke through his bed-room window and fortunately saved him from the flames. He also, at a very great personal risk, was fortunate enough to save a small quantity of gun-powder before the flames reached the rest of it. This disaster reduced them all to the utmost distress; and as the only means of saving them from famine the men were sent back to Michilimackinac; which they fortunately reached before the navigation closed. Mr. Henry remained behind along with the commanding officer, Mr. Cadotte, the former French governor, an interpreter, and two Canadians, in a small house which had been saved from the fire, and where they contrived to procure a scanty and precarious living by fishing and hunting, for the space of two months. On the 20th day of February, finding the ice sufficiently strong for travelling, the subject of this memoir, along