

## Annals of Iowa [Letter from A. Whitney; Dubuque]

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From the lake to the Mississippi, land good, route feasible; an abundance of timber must be then prepared and taken on, as the road progresses to the Rocky Mountains; and no streams difficult to bridge until we reach the Mississippi, which can be bridged in the vicinity of and above Prairie du Chien, and, as I understand, not below that place. From the Mississippi to the Missouri the streams can be bridged easily, and at little comparative expense; first rate material being abundant in the bluffs which form the banks of the rivers. The Missouri is a very difficult stream to bridge or to navigate; its waters rapid, many shoals, eighteen or twenty-two inches water, its bed quicksand, its channel constantly changing, and now full of snags, its bottoms, below the Calumet, four to five miles wide between the bluffs, and all quicksand, in layers or strata from one to three feet, and between each the water constantly leaches out, which, with the wear of the main stream, causes the banks to tumble into the river, and so on, till a new channel is made from one side of the bottom to the other; rendering it almost impossible to bridge anywhere below the entrance of the Calumet. But above this are two places of rock bed and one of gravel, where, too, the bottoms, from bluff to bluff, are very narrow, and a bridge may be erected without difficulty and with safety; thus you will see from my picture, that I have found all I desired, and far more than I expected when I set out.

\* \* \* \* \*

Most respectfully, your ob't servant,

A. WHITNEY.

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We are pleased to see in the last *Iowa News* that Du Bu Que is improving rapidly this season, and that the village is also healthy. We rejoice in the prosperity of Iowa, of the whole of Iowa, and we can not cherish one sectional feeling which might operate to the injury of any part of our flourishing territory. In Iowa City, the seat of territorial government located by the last legislature, lots have been sold by the commissioners to the amount of many thousand dollars and several buildings have been erected already. Those who have visited the location all agree in the opinion that it is the best that could have been made, in the heart of a fine farming country, with an extensive quarry of elegant marble on the bank of the Iowa only a short distance from the point on which the public buildings are to be erected. The Iowa River to this point is not navigable for boats of any kind, but is said to be a fine mill stream.—The *Iowa Sun*, Davenport, Iowa Territory, September 11, 1839. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

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