draining and by lowering Lake Monona, have been but partially successful, though a considerable number of dwellings have been erected upon it. A similar tract, of less extent, lies south-west of the Capitol. Not many years ago this was almost wholly submerged. It is now sufficiently dry to be practicable for streets and to some extent for building purposes.

With these exceptions the entire site of the city is abundantly high, and so rolling as to afford perfect drainage and beautiful building sites. Much has been said and written about the beauty of Madison. Horace Greely, Bayard Taylor, and other distinguished visitors have described the charming lake scenery by which we are surrounded in such glowing terms as to give Madison a national reputation. It is not our purpose to enlarge upon this topic. The visitor has only to survey the city and the surrounding country from the top of the Vilas House or the Capitol, or the main edifice of the University, to satisfy himself the world affords few more delightful prospects.

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**INDIAN TITLE.**

The ground upon which Madison is built was, in common with most of the region included between the Mississippi, the Wisconsin and Rock Rivers, purchased from the Sacs and Fox Indians, in 1825, at which time those tribes relinquished all claim to lands east of the Mississippi River. The Sacs and Foxes were reputed among the early settlers to be peculiarly faithless and savage. At all events they seem to have repented the surrender of their old hunting grounds, and in 1831 we find them
again on this side of the Mississippi greatly annoying the settlers and destroying much property. They were speedily driven back and entered into a new treaty with the United States, the terms of which were much the same as those of the treaty of 1825.

The next year they again returned to this side of the river, and, having induced a few Winnebagoes to join them, engaged in what is known as the Black Hawk war. Under the skilful leadership of Black Hawk they gave considerable trouble to the army sent to expel them, and continued their resistance for several months. As a result of this struggle the Indians were removed further west, a new treaty was entered into, and permanent tranquility was secured to Wisconsin.

It is probable that these tribes had occupied this region for a considerable period prior to the permanent settlement of Wisconsin, and that they were a warlike race of old, for we learn that nearly two hundred years ago the French, who rarely became involved in any difficulty with the aborigines, were obliged by force of arms to wrest from the Saes and Foxes the privilege of transit between Green Bay and the Mississippi.

These savages have left but few traces of their occupancy. An occasional deep worn trail and here and there a small corn field constitute the only memorials of the rude life they led. One of the corn fields referred to may still be seen on the promontory on the east side of Lake Monona, near its outlet. This field, like others of its kind, will serve to exemplify the crude notions of agriculture as well as a singular want of perception of geometrical proportions that characterized our predecessors. They used the same hills year after year, disposed them
at irregular intervals, and arranged them in no definite order. The earth was accumulated for the benefit of suc-
cessive crops until the field (which was never enclosed) resembled a vast collection of ant hills. There is no evi-
dence that the Indians of this region ever cultivated any
other crop than maize. The absence of geometrical ar-
range ment in agriculture is in striking contrast with the
keen perception of symmetry evinced in the birch canoes,
bows and arrows and ornamental bead work of these same savages.

Trails and corn fields are by no means the sole eviden-
 ces of a former occupancy. Artificial mounds, those
mysterious monuments of a forgotten age if not of a for-
gotten race, abound in the vicinity of the four lakes. In
the earliest historic times the Indians seem to have been
as destitute as they now are of any traditions respecting
them. We should not be too hasty, however, in drawing
the common inference that the mounds were the work of
a more intelligent race long extinct, for even the most im-
portant events will speedily fade from the memory of a
savage people, without literature and intent upon the grati-
ification of present animal desires. While it may be more
gratifying to the fancy it is questionable whether it is
more agreeable to reason to refer these works to a remote
age and a civilized race. Many of the mounds which
abound in the vicinity of Madison appear to have been
the sites of dwellings or villages. As such they were
only the simplest kind of a floor, and may have been
thrown together by a very rude people, as a protection
against floods. Indeed the fact that they are composed
almost exclusively of the loose surface soil would indicate
that the implements used in their construction were of the
simplest character. Other mounds were, perhaps as clear-
ly, erected for sacrificial, and others for burial purposes. The great numbers of them found around the lakes indicate that this region was long a favorite resort for the aborigines as it naturally would have been, owing to the abundance of fish and water fowl. Not twenty years ago the shallow bays were literally covered, spring and autumn, with myriads of ducks. This, long after the rifle of the hunter had begun to frighten them from their wonted haunts. It is probable therefore that, when the silent arrow was the only weapon used against them, their numbers were limited only by the capacity of the lakes to feed them. The abundance of food and water must also have rendered this a favorite spot for deer and other large game, and the numerous marshes surrounding, most of which have been partially reclaimed by drainage, and the opening of the hide-bound soil on the adjacent hills, must have afforded an abundant supply of peltry. It is not surprising therefore that the savage bade a reluctant adieu to these "happy hunting grounds."

FIRST VISITS OF WHITE MEN.

LOCATION OF THE CAPITAL.

It is uncertain at what time the region of the Four Lakes was first visited by white men. After the establishment of the first French Trading Post at Green Bay, which occurred certainly as early as 1673, and according to some accounts as early as 1629, it is probable that the region now known as the State of Wisconsin was repeatedly traversed in nearly every direction by the hardy and adventurous French traders, and it is not unlikely that the Four Lakes, in common with other lake districts were more than once visited for purposes of barter. We have