

boat navigation. The land bordering it is hilly and undulating. On the north side it is well timbered, chiefly with hard wood, and abounds with lime and silicious stone. It has clean, gravelly shores, and is mostly supplied by springs, having but one small tributary. At the nearest point, it is fifteen miles from the Wiskonsan river, and a canal might be easily constructed to connect these waters. The country around it rises in gentle elevations, and is underlaid with limestone. In some places the lake is from fifty to sixty feet deep. Chaledony, agates, and cornelian stones, have been frequently found on its shores.

CHAPTER XIII.

Grant county, is bounded on the north by Crawford and Richland counties, east by Iowa, south by Illinois, and west by Iowa territory. Its extreme length from north to south, is forty-eight miles, and from east to west, thirty-seven miles: its mean width, however, is only twenty-four miles; making an area of eleven hundred and fifty-two square miles or sections. It was set off from Iowa county, in 1836. Its population in 1838, was two thousand seven hundred and sixty-three; in 1840, three thousand nine hundred and twenty-six; and in 1842, five thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven. The county seat is Lancaster, situated at the head of Pigeon creek, near the centre of the county. It has a fine brick court-house, The principal streams are the Mississippi, the Wiskonsan, Platte river, Grant

river, and little Platte river. The principal villages are Lancaster, Potosi, Sinapie, Cassville, Grant, Gibraltar, Wingville, and Platteville. This county abounds in mineral diggings, or mines of lead and copper ore, especially in the southern part of the county, and on Blue river, in the northern part, from which large fortunes have been realized by miners, smelters, merchants and speculators. The county is bounded on two sides by navigable waters—the Mississippi and Wiskonsan rivers. It has more good timber land than any other county in the mineral country, and the most beautiful, undulating prairies, abounding with fine springs. There is neither a swamp nor a stagnant pool of water in the county. The soil, in both timber and prairie lands, is very rich, yielding all kinds of grain and vegetables in abundance, with comparatively little labor. Among the growth of timber found in this county, oak, walnut, hickory, lynn or bass wood, sugar maple, cherry, ash, iron wood, and quakeraspen on the most prevalent. Grapes, wild plums, and crab apples, grow in abundance. On the river bottoms, there are found the soft maple and elm, and on the bluffs the cedar and white pine. The woods abound in game; the streams in fine fish. Potosi is a town at the mouth of Grant river, in this county. It is situated in a romantic and picturesque valley, with a stream of pure water running through it. This valley is three miles long, and varies in breadth from one hundred to three hundred yards. It is known as Van Buren valley, and is not unfrequently called Snake Hollow, from some curious circumstances in its history. Lafayette is situated at the mouth of the valley,

on the banks of the river, and is the shipping place for a large portion of the country around. It was laid out in 1836. Van Buren lies above Lafayette, about the middle of the valley, and was laid out in 1838. It has a Post-Office, and a Methodist and Catholic Church. Above Van Buren is another town called Dublin. This as the name portends, is an Irish settlement. There are many Irish in the territory. They are a peaceable, hard-working, industrious class of citizens, are republicans to the very core, and generally members of the Catholic Temperance Association.

Sinapi, a town on the Mississippi, in Grant county, is situated near the north line of town one, the western termination of the United States road from Racine. This town stands at the edge of the water, which is deep close to the shore, affording a convenient landing place for steam boats of the largest class. Large quantities of lead and copper are shipped from this port.

Sinapi is situated on the east bank of the Mississippi, at the base of lofty, precipitous bluffs, and is one of the many bubbles which expanded and burst about the year 1838. The Louisiana Company purchased the town site, erected sundry dwellings and store-houses, and drew to the village many inhabitants, by lavish promises of emolument and wealth. The imaginary fortunes of the settlers and company soon vanished into thin air, and the deserted town speedily began to fall into decay and ruin. A solitary family remains, to tell the tale of the rise and decline of Sinapi. It has the appearance, if I may use the term, of a place eviscerated—sacked and plundered by an invading army. Had a fire swept over it, it could

scarcely have left it more seared and desolate. Sinapi is a precious monument of the folly, rashness, and mad spirit of adventure and speculation, which marked and disgraced the year 1836, '37, and '38. That was an era pregnant with disaster and ruin, with rank vice and profligacy, with public and private demoralization; and its pestilent influence has not yet ceased to taint and pollute our moral and political atmosphere. The infection of evil principles and example reaches far and wide, and its fatal consequences are felt long after the causes have ceased to operate. I think no calm observer can look back to the period to which I have alluded, without being satisfied that it has left a stamp and an impress upon our institutions and character, deeply disgraceful and deleterious. That it has left traces in our hitherto untarnished national escutcheon, deep, dark, and it is greatly to be feared, almost indelible.

Cassville, is another post town on the Mississippi, in this county, about twenty-five miles below the mouth of the Wiskonsan, at the foot of a steep bluff, two hundred feet high, and immediately below the mouth of a small stream, and on a beautiful plain, fifteen feet above the water level. The plain is four hundred yards wide.

Gibraltar, is three miles due north of Sinapi, laid out on the south side of the Platte river, near its mouth. It is a post town.

Wingville, is a village, situate on the main ridge-road, near the line between Grant county and Iowa, and forty miles from Prairie du Chien, on the head of Blue river. Lime stone is here found in abundance, and also a stone suitable for building, and easily dressed.

Platteville, is a flourishing post town, in the same county, situated on the waters of the little Platte river, five miles west of Belmont. It has an academy, which was incorporated in 1839, and a newspaper, published weekly.

CHAPTER XIV.

Green County, is bounded on the north by Dane county; on the east by Rock county; on the south by the State of Illinois; and on the west by Iowa county. It is twenty-four miles square, enclosing an area of five hundred and seventy-six square miles, or sections of land. It was set off from Iowa in 1836, and organized as a separate county in 1838. Its population in 1840, was 933, and in 1842, 1,594. The county seat is Munroe. Sugar river, and Little Sugar river, water the eastern portion of the county. The Peka-tonica enters the southwest corner, and several of its branches rise in the western part. The villages are Munroe, New Mexico, and Centreville. Two other villages have been laid out—Lexington and Livingston, on Sugar river. The surface of this county is broken by moderate elevations and gentle inclinations, susceptible of cultivation. Timber is scarce. This county consists principally of prairie land, especially in the southern part. Several valuable discoveries of lead ore have been made, and late researches prove indications of many more. The soil is generally well adapted for agricultural and grazing purposes. Sheep