CHAPTER III.


In the summer and fall of 1837, Gen. Wm. R. Smith made an extensive tour through the Territory of Wisconsin, and in 1838 published, at Philadelphia, a small volume entitled "Observations on Wisconsin Territory," a work containing much desirable information for emigrants and tourists. Gen. Smith shortly afterward removed to Wisconsin and made it his permanent residence, locating at Mineral Point. His account of Madison and the Four Lake country, is very interesting, but too lengthy to be republished. We have, however, made liberal extracts:

"Although the Seat of Government is laid out on the strip of land between the lakes, and the public buildings are located here, yet an extension of city lots has been made by the land proprietors all around the Four Lakes. The different sites bear the name of East Madison, North Madison, the City of the Four Lakes and Mandamus. I have called Madison a contemplated city; let it be remembered that six months since, the site of the city was government land; now, there are about thirty houses in a state of forwardness; a steam saw mill near completion; a population of above one hundred active mechanics and laborers employed in their own improvements, and in the erection of public buildings which are already in a forward state; add to this picture of enterprise and industry, the excellent accommodations which are obtained at the public house of Mr. Peck, and the traveler may well be surprised at the rapid progress of the city of Madison.

"The connection between the Fourth and Third Lake is not navigable for steamboats at present (!) the stream is narrow
and rapid. It is in contemplation to cut a canal through the city to connect the lakes. The distance from the head of Fourth Lake to the foot of the First Lake is about fourteen miles, and on the western bank of this lake is laid out a town, called "The City of the First Lake." I did not visit it, and cannot therefore speak of its localities. The site of the "City of the Four Lakes," * opposite to Madison on the north side of the lake, is a most beautiful location. Gov. Dodge, in his first message to the Legislature, said that the Indians had been known, in high water, to pass in canoes from Wisconsin river to the Four Lakes, the distance being only twelve miles. He therefore thought it a work of but little labor to make a communication between these two points. It is quite probable that the Legislature at its next session will make a law for that purpose.†

"The Fourth Lake is a beautiful sheet of water, six [eight] miles from east to west, and four [six] miles from north to south, in its widest parts; its regular circumference being interrupted by the protrusion of wooded points of land into the lake. The water is from fifty to seventy feet deep, and always preserves its pure clearness, and sea like appearance in color, although sometimes disturbed into a considerable tumult of waves by high winds. The Third Lake is less than the

*"The City of the Four Lakes" comprised fractional part of section 6, of town 7, range 9; 300 acres laid out. The town was platted and put on record July 7, 1836, M. L. Martin, W. B. Slaughter and J. D. Doty, proprietors.

†Such utterances by observant and intelligent men, give a direct clue to the leading ideas of the time. The mania for gain, ran to villages and canals. Not to own a "village site," was to be rated a poor man—not to put faith in navigation of any streams, however small, was to lack in spirit of enterprise. A row of villages around Fourth Lake, was the dream of speculation. A canal connecting the Rock and Wisconsin rivers, was looked upon as a certainty of the future—and an immigration that, in a few years, would enrich every one, was staple belief, and acted upon in all the usual transactions of life, and something assured. The present generation will smile at all this—to the early settlers, it was a bitter experience.
Fourth, and the Second and First Lakes gradually diminish in
size until the river of the Four Lakes continues its regular
course to the junction of Rock river. * * * *

"Springs arise all around these lakes, particularly the Fourth
Lake, supplying the great mass of waters; but a principal source
is a considerable stream of two or three branches, emptying in,
on the northern shore of Fourth Lake. No situation can be
conceived more beautiful than the shores of this lake; the land
rises gently all around its margin, receding and rising gradually
into a gentle eminence, for about a mile from the lake, and
the whole of this lovely shore is studded and adorned with spots
of wood and thick groves, giving the idea of the park scenery
in England, or the rich views of Italy; and more beautiful than
either, in its natural state. The lake abounds with the finest
fish, perch, bass, catfish, buffalo fish, muskelonge, from a pound
weight to thirty pound and more. The shores are lined with
fine shingle and white sand, and amongst the pebbles are found
chalcydone, agate, and cornelian, and other fine and beautiful
stones suitable for seals, breastpins, and other ornaments, not
only often but in abundance.

"With regard to the several additions to Madison, laid out
around the eastern and northern shores of the Fourth Lake, the
towns may not for some years meet the sanguine expectations
of the several proprietors, but it may with truth be said, that
in whatever proportion population may increase in all or any
of these places, compared with other parts of the Territory,
there cannot be found in any part of Western Wisconsin situ-
ations more healthy, and more fertile, or prospects more beau-
tiful in respect to land and water scenery, than around and in
the vicinity of the Four Lakes; this region must in a short
time be thickly inhabited." * * * *

It will be noticed the predictions of Gen. Smith have not all
been fulfilled; while the city of Madison has become all that he
anticipated, the Catfish is not yet navigable for steamboats and
not very likely to be for years to come — the projected canal
across the city, was abandoned, which also may be said of the
various cities laid out on paper around the lakes. Many persons
in the speculative times of 1836 and '37 invested in this kind of property, but only to find that they were losers instead of gainers.

Hon. J. T. KINGSTON, of Necedah, Wisconsin, informs us that about the 20th of December, 1837, in company with S. B. PILKINGTON, he passed through Madison, from Racine. He arrived here the next morning, and proceeded north to the Wisconsin river. The prospects of Madison did not at all appear promising at that time to him, and the business of mining was the only one that held out any inducements to immigrants.

The Legislature of the Territory met for the first time in Madison, on the 26th of February, 1838. The capitol was not yet in a suitable condition to receive the Legislature, so that the members of the Council met in the little room on the left side of the hall of the American Hotel, and the House of Representatives in the basement dining room, in which permanent organizations took place. In the basement room Gov. Dodge delivered his first message at the new seat of government. A resolution was adopted appointing a joint committee to examine the public buildings, and report their condition, together with the probable accommodation to be afforded the Legislature. The committee reported the next day that they had the assurance of the Commissioner, Mr. BIRD, that the Representatives Hall and Council Chamber would be in readiness on the succeeding day for the Legislative Assembly. They also reported that the keepers of the three public houses would be fully prepared, during the week, to accommodate the members, to-wit: at the Madison House, two rooms that will accommodate six persons; at the Madison Hotel, two rooms that will accommodate four persons each; and at the American Hotel, eight rooms sufficient to accommodate twenty-six persons; and, further, that not more than fifty persons can be accommodated with sufficient rooms for the transaction of business. A few days later, two rooms on the south side of the capitol were pronounced in readiness for the reception of the wise men of the Legislature, representing 18,180 inhabitants, the population of the then Territory of Wisconsin. The counties of Green,
Dane, Jefferson and Dodge were represented in the Council by Col. Ebenezer Brigham of Blue Mounds. Speaking of the Representatives Hall, Col. Childs says: "The floors were laid with green oak boards, full of ice; the walls of the room were iced over; green oak seats, and desks made of rough boards; one fire-place, and one small stove. In a few days the flooring near the stove and fire-place so shrunk, on account of the heat, that a person could run his hands between the boards. The basement story was all open, and James Morrison's large drove of hogs had taken possession. The weather was cold, the halls were cold, our ink would freeze — so that, when we could stand it no longer, we passed a joint resolution to adjourn for twenty days, and I was appointed by the two houses to procure carpeting for both halls during the recess. I bought all I could find in the Territory, and brought it to Madison, and put it down, after covering the floor with a thick coating of hay. After this we were more comfortable."

Judge J. G. Knapp, in his "Early Reminiscences of Madison," in speaking of the first Legislative Session at Madison, says: "Having organized the Legislature, the next question was for members, officers and lobby to find places to eat and sleep in. Though we paid metropolitan prices, it cannot be said that we had exactly metropolitan fare. But men were remarkably accommodating in those early times, and without a grumble could eat 'hog and hominy' or 'common doings' when 'chicken fixings' could not be had, and they could occupy a 'field bed' when they were required to sleep 'spoon fashion.' A frontier life is a mighty leveller — much like poverty making men acquainted with strange bedfellows. The 'school section' of the 'American,' embracing most of the garret, was marked into lodging places by cracks in the floor, and its other rooms were equally crowded. At the Madison House, only six men were placed in a room sixteen feet square, and four others had a place at the fire during the day and evening. The floors of the Madison House were also nightly covered with shake-downs for travelers and transient visitors. Happy were those men who could find places in the few private houses
where four men might find two beds in a cold room ten or twelve feet square."

Gen. Geo. P. Delaplaine, a well known citizen, removed here in September, 1838. He was engaged for a time with Jas. Morrison as a clerk the Commissioners’ Store.

For the sake of preserving some additional facts connected with the early history of Madison we may add, that the first New Years was duly commemorated at the hospitable house of Mr. and Mrs. E. Peck; and her husband’s brother, Luther Peck, could discourse sweet music from the violin; and a dance was inaugurated, which lasted two days and two nights. In those days, with but a weekly mail, and that sometimes irregular and uncertain, and but four families in the place, some show of sociality and good cheer became necessary, to chase away the ennui that might otherwise have crept in during the long and tedious winter.

The first wedding in Madison took place at Mr. Peck’s, on the 1st of April, 1838. The happy bridegroom was Jairus S. Potter, better known as Long Potter, a tall lank fellow, to contra-distinguish him from Horace Potter, denominated Short Potter; and the bride was Miss Elizabeth Allen, who worked in Peck’s family. Gen. Mills procured a pretty bouquet of early flowers from the high sandy ridge dividing Third and Dead Lakes, to grace the occasion, and Mr. Peck, who was a justice of the peace, tied the matrimonial knot, which was followed by a dance, Mrs. Peck officiating on the violin, except when she herself tripped gracefully over the floor, when Mr. Eben Peck was her substitute. Mr. Potter remained in Madison until his death, about 1841; and his widow has long since passed away. Gen. Mills, Darwin Clark, and Mrs. Prosper B. Bird, who were present, speak in terms of pleasant remembrance of this primitive wedding; and Gen. Mills adds, that the spring of 1838 opened unusually early, or he would not have been able to procure the beautiful bouquet of wild flowers to grace the wedding festival.

On the 8th of November, 1838, the first number of the "Wisconsin Enquirer" was issued, the first newspaper pub-
lished here, Josiah A. Noonan* was the editor and proprietor, who had the usual enterprise of frontier printers in getting his office opened.

Mr. Noonan had ordered a press and material from Buffalo to come by way of the lakes to Green Bay, and thence up Fox river on barges to Fort Winnebago, whence it was to have been carted over-land to Madison. The bill of shipment came in due time, but weeks passed, and nothing was heard of the material. The season was getting late, and no press. Finally Mr. Noonan engaged Mr. Hyer to mount a pony, and go to Fort Winnebago, forty miles distant, and make inquiry about the missing material, and if nothing was heard of it, to continue on to Green Bay. There were then no roads, no guides, no regular stopping places; by the route taken there was no clearly defined track between Madison and Fort Winnebago, and but one stopping place, a half breed's house, within ten or twelve miles of the Fort. But from Fort Winnebago to Green Bay there was a good military road, running east of Lake Winnebago, affording a good route, and convenient stopping places among traders and Indians. On reaching Fort Winnebago, Mr. Hyer gained information that convinced him that the press and material had been thrown overboard, in a storm, in Lake Huron, off Mackinaw; but it was months after the unfortunate event before its fate was fully known. Satisfied that it would be useless to look further for the missing printing material, Mr. Hyer started back the next morning for Madison, reaching there that night, and gave such information of the matter as he had been able to learn. This led Mr. Noonan

*Josiah A. Noonan, Esq., was a native of Montgomery county, New York, and educated as a printer, with Chas. S. Benton, of Little Falls, New York. In 1836 he removed to Michigan, and in 1838, after the location of the seat of government, to Madison, Wis., and was publisher of the "Wisconsin Enquirer," and elected territorial printer. In 1840 he removed to Milwaukee and published the "Milwaukee Advertiser" and afterwards the "Morning News." He was subsequently appointed Postmaster, which position he held a number of years. He was subsequently interested in the Humbolt Paper Mill, near Milwaukee, and more recently has removed to Chicago, where he is the publisher of the "Industrial Age."
to purchase the "Racine Argus," and transfer the material to Madison, followed immediately by the publication of the "Wisconsin Enquirer," the first number of which appeared on the 8th of November, 1838, and on which Mr. Hyer set the first type. With a single hand press, and scarcely any conveniences, this little office issued a newspaper, the bills, journals, reports, and laws of the Legislature, including a revision of the laws then in force. It was published in a room over the Commissioner's Store on King street. It was a six column weekly and commenced its career full of spirit and energy. In the introductory, the editor says: "With party politics we shall not for the present take any very active part, believing that there is nothing in the situation of the Territory that makes it necessary for the newspapers in it now, to burthen their columns with labored discussions of the common political questions of the day."

The paper, however, was not long free from politics. The greatest strife was of a local nature. Parties at that day, had not become fully organized. In April, 1839, Mr. C. C. Sholes became a partner. Other changes took place subsequently. George Hyer, J. Gillett Knapp, Harrison Reed, David Lambert and Barlow Shackleford were interested in its management. It was discontinued after June, 1843.

1839. — An election for Board of Commissioners of Dane county, was held in May, at Madison, which was the only voting place, and Simeon Mills, Eben Peck and Jeremiah Lycan were elected. At their first meeting, May 15, at the Madison Hotel, they chose La Fayette Kellogg, Clerk; John Stoner, County Treasurer; Wm. A. Wheeler, Assessor; R. L. Ream, Register of Deeds; David Hyer, Coroner; Adam Smith and J. Ubeldine, Constables. On the 25th of May, Gov. Dodge appointed John Catlin, District Attorney; Isaac H. Palmer, Judge of Probate; N. T. Parkinson, Sheriff; Isaac Atwood, Public Administrator; G. P. Delaplaine, District Surveyor, W. N. Seymour, Justice of the Peace, vice S. Mills, resigned, and John T. Wilson, Auctioneer.

A subsequent meeting of this board was held May 15, at
which time most of the persons elected presented their bonds, which were accepted. On the 16th two election precincts were established, one at Madison, and the other at Moundville (Blue Mounds); at the former, Prosper B. Bird, Darwin Clark and J. S. Potter were appointed Judges of Election, and at the latter, Prescott Brigham, J. C. Kellogg and Sidney Carmean. On the 4th of June, G. P. Delaplaine filed his bond as District Surveyor, and N. T. Parkinson, as Sheriff. On the 5th of July two supervisors were chosen; No. 1, Edward Campbell, No. 2, Horace Lawrence and H. Lawrence, Chas. S. Peaslee and Isaac Atwood to act as commissioners to lay out a county road in the direction of Fort Winnebago. Tavern licenses were fixed at $20 at Madison, and $12 in other parts of the county. On the 6th of July, the Clerk of the Board was authorized to receive proposals for the erection of a county jail, 24 feet long, 18 feet wide—two rooms—one story high, of square timber—walls eight inches thick, and Simeon Mills was directed to make a loan of $1,000 to defray the expenses. On the 22d of the same month, Robert L. Ream was elected Clerk of the Board, vice L. F. Kellogg resigned. Bids were received for the erection of the jail from P. W. Matts, Geo. Vroman, J. S. Potter, Nelson Hart & Co. Isaac Atwood, A. Rasdall, David Hyer, Thos. Jackson and N. T. Parkinson, ranging from $1,139, the bid of J. S. Potter; to $2,000—that of A. Rasdall. The contract was awarded to Mr. Potter, who, failing to give bonds, it was given to N. T. Parkinson, for $1,348. The building was erected on lot 10, block 113.

On the 25th of May, 1839, the "Enquirer" contained an article respecting Dane county, in which the whole population was estimated at three hundred, more than half of whom resided at Madison. This was doubtless too high an estimate, as the population by the census of 1840 was but 314. The village then contained two stores, three public houses, three groceries and one steam mill—in all thirty-five buildings. The same article states that prices had ranged during the year then passed as follows: Corn, $1.25 per bushel; oats, 75 cents; potatoes,
$1.00; butter, 37½ cents to 62½ cents per pound; eggs, 37½ to 75 cents per dozen; pork and beef 7 to 12 cents per pound.

Geo. O. Tiffany and Simeon Mills advertised, September 20, to run a stage semi-weekly from Milwaukee to Madison in connection with the established line to Mineral Point.

The amount of the assessment roll placed in the hands of the collector, was $2,974.71.

On the 30th of September the Board gave a bounty of $3.00 for wolf scalps. On the 3d of October the amount was reduced to $1.00.


The “Madison Express” was the title of the second paper established in Madison. The first number was issued on the 2d day of December, 1839. W. W. Wyman, editor and publisher. It was a neatly printed six-column weekly paper, starting off in support of the then Territorial administration, and claiming to
be devoted to the advancement of the best interests of the people. In 1840, it was enlarged to a seven column paper, and came out decidedly in favor of the Whig party, raising the name of Wm. H. Harrison at the editorial head — declaring for Harrison and Reform. The paper continued with marked success until May, 1848, when it was temporarily suspended. In 1848 the office was purchased by David Atwood & Royal Buck, and the publication was resumed. The further history of this and other Madison newspapers will be hereafter continued.

Judge Knapp* gives the following account of the communications leading to and from Madison at his first visit:

"My first recollections of actually seeing Madison and its surroundings carry me back to the summer of 1838, when after a rapid reconnaissance for a canal from Waupun to the head of Duck creek, I came to Madison as a delegate to a Territorial Congressional convention. Our road then ran on the west side of the Fourth Lake (the lakes were numbered, and had no special names in those days), and over the high prairies in the western part of Westport and Vienna, coming in at the paper "City of the Four Lakes," through Mandamus and around the south end of the lake, so as to enter the present road near the stone quarry.

"But two roads, then, led from the capitol out of town, the one west, partly along State street and University avenue, to near the residence of A. E. Brooks. There it parted, one run-

* Hon. Jos. G. Knapp was born at New Lebanon, N. Y., Sept. 21, 1805. He studied law, and removed to Wisconsin, landing at Green Bay, November 20, 1835. He came to Madison, 1839, and was editor and proprietor of the Wisconsin Enquirer in 1842. He was elected by the Territorial Legislature January 29, 1846, Superintendent of Public Property, succeeding Hon. John Y. Smith, and was re-elected February 9, 1847, and March 9, 1848, to the same office. Mr. Knapp practiced law in Madison until his appointment in 1861, as Associate Judge of the Territory of New Mexico. This appointment he held until 1863, when he returned to Wisconsin. Judge Knapp has written much for the newspapers and periodicals on agricultural and scientific subjects generally. He removed to New Mexico in 1873, and resides at Mesilla.
ning southwest, leading towards Green county; the other con-
tinued west beyond the second railroad culvert, at which place
it branched for Blue Mounds and Fort Winnebago. The Green
county road branched again beyond the Dead Lake, for Hum’s
Ferry over Rock river. Janesville was then scarcely begun.
This then, and long after, was the road to Rock and Wal-
worth counties. The east road forded the Catfish river nearly
where the bridge now is, and branching soon after, one led to
Cottage Grove, where it again parted, one to Lake Mills, and
the other to Fort Atkinson. The main track followed near the
present road to Sun Prairie, and thence to Lake Mills by way
of Marshall, then called “Bird’s Ruins.”† It was by this line
the first workmen arrived here from Milwaukee. Near the
“76” farm, an Indian trail ran by the Prairie House. Horace
Lawrence lived there then, in a little house, keeping “bach.”
This was the only house between Madison and Rowan’s. The
trail crossed Token creek a mile above the present village, and
then ran over the prairies, striking the military road at Row-
an’s, now Poynette. By this trail I returned from Madison.
Then there were no roads in the direction of Columbus, Beaver
Dam and Waupun. In fact those towns were then unsettled,
and the lands unentered at the land office.

Then the “City of Four Lakes” ‡ had a very decided ad-

† Bird’s Ruins had its name in this wise: It had been observed by Col.
Bird’s party who passed there in June, 1837, that it would make a desir-
able location; and as Bird’s trail was for some time the only route of
travel between Milwaukee and Madison, Zenas H. Bird, a brother of Col.
Bird, took down his small building in Madison, about the spring of 1839,
and re-erected it at the crossing of Waterloo creek, and moved there, with
the view of establishing a tavern at that locality, and put up a much larger
frame for a house; but by the autumn of that year, other routes of travel
began to be opened, and Mr. Bird regarding the prospects as unpromising,
abandoned the premises, and returned to Madison; and left to the action
of storms and weather, the building, in the course of two or three years,
fell to the ground — and hence the place was named Bird’s Ruins. The
village of Hanchettville, since changed to Marshall, subsequently sprung
up there. Mr. Bird, an early hotel keeper, died in Madison in 1843.

‡ A post-office was established here before the one at Madison, but was
discontinued August 9, 1837.
FOUR LAKE COUNTRY OF WISCONSIN.

vantage over Madison. That city, owned mostly by Virginia gentlemen, had houses and people; Madison had no such luxuries, but it had an energetic proprietor. To-day one is a city with a Mayor and common council, four storied stone and brick blocks, with moss on the roofs, railroads, Nicholson pavements, macadamized streets, sidewalks and stoned gutters, plenty of debts and taxes, thronged streets with noise, dust and jostlings of business, conflagrations and fire engines. The other city is a wheat field, or grown up to brush, with less houses than it had in 1836.

The anniversary of National Independence was celebrated in due form (1839). John Catlin, Esq., was President, A. A. Bird and Simeon Mills, Vice Presidents. The Declaration of Independence was read by Geo. P. Delaplaine, and the Oration by Wm. T. Sterling. The celebration was a "great success." Volunteer toasts were given by S. Mills, A. A. Bird, G. P. Delaplaine, R. L. Ream, D. Clark, A. Smith, C. Peaslee, E. Brigham, Wm. N. Seymour, L. F. Kellogg, Geo. Hyer, and others. Some of the toasts were very severe on the political actions of Gov. S. T. Mason, Acting Governor, who was for some reasons exceedingly unpopular. Of this celebration, Judge J. G. Knapp, who was present, remarks: "The Madisonians having determined to celebrate the Fourth of July, and to vary for the occasion the usual diet of bacon and fish, "Uncle Abe," of the "Worser," had agreed to deliver them a fat steer for the occasion. The evening of the third came, and Nichols also, boisterously happy. Individually he had commenced anticipating the good feeling, which the keg he carried in his wagon, intended primarily for the "Worser," but ultimately designed, after quadrupling its cost in favor of that institution, for the Madisonians, whose whistles had long been dry. Men drank "Peckatonica" and "Rock river," in those days, and thought there could be no feast without it.* True to his trust, Nichols had brought the steer, and tied him in a thicket to a burr oak tree, near the intersection of Dayton and State streets,

* "Peckatonica" and Rock river," and the names of some other streams, were used to designate various grades of whisky.
where none of the hungry men could see it. Then taking one more drink from his “pocket pistol,” he advanced to the crowd of loungers and longers; for the whisky of the “Worser” had long since failed, and all were remarkably dry. The keg was unloaded and tapped in less time than I can tell it, and all hands summoned to drink. So the Fourth of July began, as it not unfrequently happens, on the third. The tethered steer was forgotten, in the joy that whisky, as meat, drink and lodging, prevailed the crowd; and none enjoyed it more than “Uncle Ab” himself. The Madisonians, next day, celebrated the Fourth in due course. They marched in due form to martial music made by two squeaking fiddles.† Fiddlers and men at the head, and women at the tail of the line. Geo. P. Delaplaine read the declaration, and William T. Sterling delivered a short but broad winged eagle oration. After which the procession reformed in close order, and with “double quick” marched back to the “Worser,” and to the public dinner of bacon and fish, the diet of other days, except they had whisky to drink. They eat, they drank, and they danced to the cheery notes of the fiddles, and were right merry.

Three days after, when the keg was empty, and no more whisky to be had, “Uncle Ab” sobered off, and bethought him of the steer tied to the burr oak, and that instead of having been served up on the National feast, he was still under the tree. There it was that the butcher’s knife released him at once from his three days’ fast and from life; and he served to vary the daily diet of bacon and bread on common days of the year.”

A school was taught by Mr. Edgar S. Searle, in the summer of 1839. Mr. Searle continued one term, and was succeeded in the summer of 1840, by E. M. Williamson. These gentlemen and their successors, taught in a small building on the corner of Pinckney and Dayton streets. The building is described as having a wooden frame, the inner walls of brick and entirely destitute of the modern conveniences of school houses at the present day. Four sticks driven into — sometimes

† George W. Stoner, Esq., a youth at that time, says that Eben and Luther Peck played the fiddles, and Thomas Hill played the flute.
through — a slab, and convex side down, formed movable seats. Mr. Williamson taught the boys only, his school numbering about six pupils. The girls were taught at the same time by a Miss Pierce, in an old building, situated in the vicinity of Dean’s new block. At this early date, thirteen pupils comprised the membership of the Madison schools. Mr. Williamson conducted the school two terms, and was succeeded in the winter of 1842, by Mr. Theodore Conkey.

The further history of our schools will be continued under the proper dates.

On the 14th of December, 1839, Edward Campbell advertises he had purchased the stock of Catlin & Mills and was prepared to supply the wants of the people in this section, that they need not be dependent on Mineral Point, Galena and Milwaukee for supplies; and November 26, N. T. Parkinson & Co., advertise the “Madison Exchange” on Doty’s corner, half way between the American and Madison Hotels. These two merchants are the only persons who advertised in the Madison Express, the others were small dealers. In November, David Brigham & Thos. W. Sutherland advertised a law office and land agency.

The first steps taken for the establishment of a church at Madison were as follows: A paper was drawn up in the following form with the accompanying signers, on the 25th of July, 1839. E. M. Williamson, Esq., has kindly furnished a copy of the same:

“We, whose names are hereunto attached, believing the Holy Scriptures to be the word of God, and deeply feeling the importance of maintaining divine services in our town, and preferring the Protestant Episcopal Church to any other, we hereby unite ourselves into a parish of the said church for the above and every other purpose which is requisite and necessary to the same.

“Madison, July 25, 1839.

The history of this church will be continued hereafter.

We find that John T. Wilson and Elias J. Williams were in business here as blacksmiths, in 1839. In December Mr. Williams retired. Catlin and Noonan advertised a general land office business; W. N. Seymour & J. T. Clark, attorneys, D. Brigham & T. W. Sutherland were practicing law and land office agency. Jas. Morrison advertised the American Hotel for sale August 31, 1839, and on the 2d of September, it was advertised by Kintzing Pritchett by his attorney M. M. Strong. The title of this property even at that date was in dispute, and was not settled until many years afterwards. Edward Campbell advertised that he had purchased the stock of Catlin & Mills, and proposed continuing the business. Mrs. Louisa M. Sawin, formerly Miss L. M. Brayton, says that in 1837 she taught a select school in Madison. The first one in the town.

Robert L. Ream, Esq.,* an early settler, now a resident of Washington, D. C., has kindly furnished his reminiscences of 1838 and 1839, which are here given:

"In the latter part of April, in the year 1838, I first visited Madison. I traveled there in company with Mr. Wells, who, with a two-horse team, was supplying the people of Madison with produce from his farm in Green county. Madison then consisted of not more than a dozen houses, built and in process of erection, counting every cabin and shanty within three miles of the capitol, and was the only market for Green county farmers.

"Mr. Wells and I left Monroe, then called New Mexico, in the morning, and reached Grand Springs, near Sugar river, late in the afternoon, and camped there for the night. This was before the land there was entered by Mr. McFadden, and the Springs had not yet been named. We built a large log fire,

* Robert L. Ream was born in Centre county, Penn., October 16, 1809; emigrated to Ohio in 1832, and from thence to Wisconsin. While a resident of Madison he held a number of offices. He now resides at Washington, D. C., and has held, for a number of years, a position in the General Land Office.
(to keep off the wolves, as Mr. Wells said), and fried our bacon and boiled our coffee. The aroma from our dainty dishes must soon have filled the atmosphere, for the prediction of Mr. Wells was verified in an incredibly short space of time, by the surrounding of our camp with prairie wolves in droves. Then commenced such a snarling, fighting, barking and howling as I never heard before or since. They made the ‘night hideous,’ and kept up the music with a thousand and one variations until morning’s dawn. During the night we chopped down more trees, cut them into logs, and kept up a rousing fire, the roar and crackle of which made a splendid accompaniment to our opposition concert in camp, which consisted of negro melodies and camp-meeting songs, which we had learned from the Hoosier prairie breakers in Greene, where it had been my good fortune to serve an apprenticeship at prairie breaking. Thus we spent a sleepless night (my first night in Dane county). We struck camp early next morning, without bidding our recently made acquaintances a very formal adieu.

“We found the then traveled road very crooked and winding, and running at almost all points of the compass, and when within five or six miles of Stoner’s prairie we halted and took observations. After determining the proper course to take in the direction of Madison, I went ahead with an axe, blazing trees. Mr. Wells followed with his team. We struck the prairie where George Vroman’s farm was afterwards located. The road which I then blazed was afterwards adopted by the public and traveled for many years. After passing through the prairie, we followed the old trail to Madison, where we arrived the second day.

“Having business at Fort Winnebago, and there being no travel in that direction, I was compelled to make the journey alone, so I negotiated with Mr. Ubeldine for a roan-colored, bob-tailed Canadian pony, with cropped mane, large ears and white belly. Mr. Ubeldine kept the only livery stable, and this was the only horse to be hired in Madison. On this imposing steed I seated myself next day, and started for the fort, forty miles distant by the trail. There was no wagon road
from Madison in that direction, and the only two houses between there and the fort were those of Wm. Lawrence near Token creek, and Wallace Rowan’s hotel on the military road, some thirty miles distant from Madison. At this hotel I put up for the night, and being not much used to that particular kind of locomotion, was very tired. Rowan’s wife served me bountifully with hoe cake and bacon. I then went to sleep and slept soundly until towards morning, when I was aroused by several cocks crowing simultaneously in close proximity to my bed. I did not discover until daylight that the foot rail of my bedstead was the roost of Mr. Rowan’s chickens.

“I remained the next night at Fort Winnebago, and picketed my pony on a grass plot near the hotel, giving him about thirty feet of rope. The hotel was the only house where travelers could be entertained outside the garrison. Mr. Henry Merrill and his family lived in it. I found the accommodations excellent. An amusing incident occurred there that night which I cannot help mentioning. In the room in which I slept were four beds, one in each corner, and all curtained. I occupied one of these beds, and it appears that the other three were occupied by gentlemen and their wives. In the night we were all aroused by a cry of robbers, thieves, Indians, etc. All started up at the alarm, the ladies shrieking with fright. The room was dark, and in the confusion we ran against each other very amusingly. When a light was struck, the scene was extremely ludicrous — ladies in their night clothes looking like affrighted ghosts, some of them clinging to the wrong man; men without any night clothes, and very little of any other kind, making frantic exertions to find out the cause of the disturbance. The supposition was, that some soldiers had been on a carousel, and had mistaken the hotel for the garrison; but, under the charge of Capt. Lowe, such a breach of the regulations would never have been allowed; and the cause of the alarm was not satisfactorily explained.

“I found my pony safe in the morning. The gallinippers had worried him badly, and kept him in motion most of the day.
night; the blood was still oozing through his perforated skin. Then, and not until then, did I realize the true force of the expression 'thicker than mosquitoes.' The atmosphere was literally filled with them. In those days, persons in the habit of traveling much, were obliged to protect their faces and heads with gauze or mosquito-bar veils, so very great was the annoyance of these insects.

"I will here digress, and relate some of the incidents told me at that time about the frontier soldier's life.

"It often happens that the government troops in these western outposts become badly demoralized and mutinous. When watched so closely that they cannot safely carry bottles or jugs of liquor into quarters, they resort to every imaginable means of smuggling it in. They have been known to saturate their blankets, overcoats and other garments with whisky obtained of the sutler, then pass the guards unsuspected, and, after reaching quarters, wring out the whisky and drink it.

"Shortly previous to my visit to the Fort a mutiny was threatened there. Capt. Lowe was in command. The sentinels at the gate refused to obey orders, which was reported to the captain. He made his appearance in due time, and demanded an explanation. As the sentinel whom he suspected for disloyalty was performing some extra evolutions which the captain did not care to exactly understand, he suddenly raised his right foot, and dexterously brought it with full force against the head of the sentinel, and brought him sprawling at his feet. This improvised tactic — (not in the manual) — was so demonstrative that the mutineers quailed before him, and at once subsided into submission, and no further attempt at mutiny was made during his command at the Fort.

"Returning to Madison, I spent the next night at Mr. Rowan's, slept in the same bed, and as before was awakened at cock crowing. At the dawn of day I discovered what I thought was a small flock of sheep, scattered around on the floor, but on closer observation, I found they were Indians. They had come in during the night from some trading post, where they had
obtained new white blankets, and had taken possession of the floor, without ever disturbing my slumber.

"From Madison back to Monroe there was no mode of conveyance, and I made this journey on foot in one day. It was then fully forty miles by the meanderings of the road. There were no bridges, and I was obliged to wade Sugar river and its tributaries as well as several large marshes, in some of which the track lay knee deep under water, and I suffered severely with the rheumatism in consequence thereof.

"Aside from the promising prospect of Madison as the seat of government of a great state not far in the future, I became so infatuated with the natural beauties of the place, that I soon determined to make it my home. Like an emerald gleaming among pearls it nestled amid the clear placid waters of the Four Lakes, and the view from the undulating surface of the country around, was a setting well fitted for the unsurpassed jewels, not unworthy of comparison with the famous views from the shores of Lakes Como and Magaire or the Bay of Naples in the old world.

"In the latter part of May or June of the same year I made another trip to Madison, when I negotiated with Mr. Peck for the Madison House, and in the month of June removed my family there and took possession as the landlord. This was the first house in Madison, now passed from our view into chaos, the shadow only remaining—it has been photographed—was not an isolated cabin, but comprised two log cabins built of oak logs, each cabin twenty feet square, one and a half stories high, the inside hewed slightly with an axe to straighten the walls, the cracks between the logs chinked and daubed with mortar. These cabins were set about twenty-four feet apart, the space between them boarded up, roofed with oak plank, battened with slabs and floored with puncheons, as was also the balance of the house. There were plenty of doors and windows. The grand hall between the cabins made a spacious dining room, answered well for a ball room, and was often used for holding caucuses and secret councils under lock and key. On the north side there was also a cabin built of logs, shed shape, called a lean-to; this
building, made a large kitchen and room for servants. I take that back, there were no servants but the mistress of the house. The hired help occupied it when we had any. To this we built an additional room of frame work boarded with shakes and roofed with shingles, for a family room.

"The pioneers of a new country before the era of railroads, telegraphs or mail facilities, can only realize the domestic trials, troubles and turmoils incident to a back wood's life. Fortunately there were few lady travelers on account of the great inconveniences in modes of travel and accommodations on the road.

"There was a number of Indian wigwams around us, some in sight of our doors; at first Mrs. Ream lived in great fear and dread of them, and attributed her peace and the success with which she gained their good graces, to a large bunch of peacock feathers which she had brought with her, and dealt out to them one by one. They seemed to have a talismanic effect. We made repeated endeavors to civilize them and teach them to be of service to us, but their utter disregard to cleanliness and innate laziness baffled all our efforts. Hired girls were out of the question, and the stronger sex were consequently often to be seen bending gracefully over the cook stove or washtub, as well as cleaning and scrubbing. On one occasion we were happily relieved for some weeks by the assistance of two young ladies, the Misses Peirce of Green county. Their help was invaluable to us, but it seemed so, also to others, for they both soon returned to be married to worthy men of their own county. One became Mrs. Rust, the other Mrs. Rattan, both well to do farmers’ wives. Next there came along a Teutonian named Schwartz, with a kit of cabinet maker's tools upon his back, which he had packed all the way from Milwaukee to Galena, expecting to find work there but failed, then returning by way of Mineral Point, reached Madison broken down, discouraged and disheartened and without a penny. I think it was on the 4th of July, 1838, when he arrived, at any rate the people of Madison were holding a jubilee of some kind, and a ball was coming off at the Madison House. Our newly arrived
guest desired to engage in the festivities, provided he could borrow some clean clothes suitable to the occasion. These were soon forth coming from our wardrobe, and when properly arrayed he became the grand attraction of the occasion, and exhibited his accomplishments by Waltzing a long time with a tumbler filled with water on his head. He was nearly sixty years of age, but as agile and as active a boy of ten. As we could converse with him in his native tongue, he was loth to leave, and more from sympathy than anything else, we engaged him to make some articles of furniture, such as could be wrought from oak or basswood lumber as we had no other kind. Among other useful articles that he constructed was a wheelbarrow. When he had finished his mechanical labors we employed him as head cook at the rate of seventy-five dollars per month, and he was also to keep the household furniture in repair. He was exceedingly kind and clever all the time, looking out for our interests. He remained with us several months. I remember one strong blustering day in the fall, Judge Dory and Col. Morrison arrived with their ladies. They had traveled all the way from Mineral Point without rest or refreshment and reported themselves, tired, cold and hungry. With orders to get the best supper the house could afford, Schwartz was soon in the dough up to his elbows and some one else was directed to build a fire in a large Franklin stove standing in the best room, which had been placed at the service of our distinguished guests. There had been no fire in the stove during the past season, and it was not discovered until the smoke gave warning that there was a large crack or fissure in the back of the stove. The fact was soon made known to Mr. Schwartz, who felt bound to see everything about the house in good repair; ran with an unbaked loaf of bread in his hands, clapped it on the crack in the stove and filled it up, thus stopping the smoke for the time being. He returned to the kitchen congratulating himself upon his ingenuity in improvising so readily this cement. As soon as the stove became heated the dough baked and burned, thus causing a denser smoke than before, and the ladies were obliged to leave the room. Mrs. Ream, who was somewhat more prac-
tical in an emergency than the German cook, soon mixed another cement of salt, ashes and vinegar, which answered the purpose well, and the weary travelers were soon quite comfortable in their room.

"Not long after this, our Teutonic friend, having earned enough money to make a payment on his lot in Milwaukee, disposed of his kit of tools, left for his home in Milwaukee, and we worked our own way as usual. Our customers and patrons were not at all fastidious. They were satisfied with clean beds, good board and genteel treatment, and this we always provided to the fullest extent of our ability. There was by this time a large amount of travel through Madison, and some sixty or seventy men at work on the capitol. We boarded a large number of them, and our house was often crowded, so that floor room could not always be had at 'two pence per square foot,' and the difference between the bare puncheons and shakedown was, 'you pays your money and takes your choice.'

"We found it necessary to make many improvements to get along. The first of importance was sinking a well on the premises. When the shaft was excavated there could be no one found to build the wall, and I was obliged to do it myself. I used cobble stone, and made a good job it. Having met with success as a well-maker, I turned oven builder, and built an out-door bake oven of clay mixed with straw, which required the same kind of labor and material that caused the children of Israel to rebel against their taskmasters. The oven was a success also, and answered us and our neighbors until Frank Shaw came from Mineral Point and started a bake shop across the street. Shaw was a genial Frenchman and full of fun. The building he occupied was about eighteen feet square, two stories high. The upper story was used as a lodging room, and the lower story as a bakery and grocery. We kept a temperance house, and Than's grocery profited largely by it, as both bread and whisky could be had there on reasonable terms. "Than" unabbreviated, means Nathaniel T. Parkinson, who was afterwards elected sheriff of the county, and held the
sheriff's office in this bake-shop grocery. There was as yet no prison in the county, and when the sheriff made arrests or brought in prisoners, they were at once presented at the bar, treated, and placed in the care of Shaw as jailor, with orders to feed and treat them well; they were then put upon their parole, with orders to report themselves at the bar at least three times a day. It is but just to say that these prisoners rarely forfeited their parole, the kind and liberal treatment they received at the hands of the sheriff as well as their custodian Shaw, endeared them to these officers; and there was no grumbling or cutting down, or disputing sheriff’s accounts in those primeval days.

"Covalle and Pelkie furnished us with daily supplies of fish from the lakes until we were sufficiently skilled in fishing to procure our own supplies. Shooting pickerel in the Catfish river soon came to be one of the grand sports of the time. When the fish 'run up' they are shot in shoal water in large quantities, which is done by simply discharging your loaded piece at the fish; neither ball nor buckshot will penetrate the water over an inch or so, but the fish are stunned by the report and concussion of the water, and, in a twinkling, are on their backs and easily captured. Spearing fish was the next best sport, and many nights have I spent at the outlet of Fourth Lake when the channel was narrow, and a single log which was used for a footbridge spanned the stream, in spearing fish of almost every kind. The water was very clear, and with a good brush fire on both sides of the stream, sufficient light was furnished to see all the fish as they swam by. From the foot bridge you could spear all you wanted. It was not an unusual thing for Ed. George and myself to return with our boat loaded to the water's edge with fish of many different kinds as the reward of one night's labor. Fishing with a spoon hook was also a favorite sport, and, when winter came, we fished with scoop nets through holes cut in the ice. In those days we always fished for fish — never for fun.

"On the south side of Third Lake there is a small estuary or inlet from a spring. In approaching that inlet, one time, I
Espied a red fox near the water, on the lookout for game; being curious to know what he was after, I kept some distance where I could watch him unobserved. Suddenly he sprung into the water and hauled out a large pickerel, longer than himself, and commenced tearing it to pieces. On my approach, he disappeared with a part of the fish in his mouth, which he had torn from his prey, leaving the back bone plainly exposed half its length, and the fish still alive, although high and dry out of water. That fox must have been hungry, for I had not gone far from the place, when I saw him stealthily retracing his steps to finish his meal.

"During the summer of 1838, we had some very violent thunder storms in Madison. An Englishman named Warren, employed in building the capitol, was killed by lightning near our house. Another serious accident of that summer was the falling from a scaffold on the capitol, of a man named Gallard, who broke his leg. These men were boarding with us, and dependent upon us for nursing and attention as well as burial. Another boarder, named Simons, was prostrated a long time with typhoid fever. In those times the duties of surgeons, physicians, nurses and undertakers, were only a few of the extra duties which devolved upon the proprietors of public houses.

"Jonathan Butterfield, of Topsham, Vermont, and his partner Pinneo, who carried on a shingle factory toward the Sugar Bush, were the kind of pioneers it necessarily takes to build up a new country. They were good workmen, and useful in their way, and when on a bender, they were the liveliest as well as the noisiest boys in the country. Near our house stood a large oak tree, the one under which Mr. Peck's family had camped when they first landed in Madison. This was a beautiful tree, valued for its shade as well as for its beauty and from association. Butterfield knew how we prized it, and when strapped, and his credit gone, his last resort was an onslaught on this old tree with an axe, and the only condition on which he would stop from damaging it, was to give him an order on Nelson's or Than's grocery. In this manner, to save the tree, we were repeatedly obliged to compromise with
him; then Pinneo came in for his share of the spoils. Some of the old settlers of Madison will remember the time when Pinneo, on a spree, without hat, shoes, coat or vest, captured an old white horse which had been turned out on the common to recruit, mounted the animal bare-backed, minus bridle or halter, in his right hand holding extended the jawbone of some defunct quadruped (either horse or ox), and proclaimed himself Sampson in quest of the Philistines, as he dashed through the most prominent streets of the town, creating a decided sensation. There were then no police or constable to interfere with any kind of sport or amusement one chose to indulge in.

"Another odd character of those days was Baptiste, the half breed Frenchman, living with some Indians in the adjoining woods, who had a natural propensity to possess himself of valuable articles, such as axes, handsaws, hammers, hatchets, shovels, etc., almost any articles for which we had daily use. He often came to know if we had lost anything, and if we had, would at once commence negotiations for the missing article. His terms were from one half to two-thirds of its value. When the contract was concluded to his satisfaction, he would immediately go to camp and return with it, stating that some bad Indian had stolen it. My wheelbarrow was valuable as well as very useful. It was made by a Milwaukee cabinet maker and cost me twelve or fifteen dollars. One day it disappeared. Baptiste had taken the precaution to ascertain its value before proposing 'terms for its surrender. We failed to agree on the price to be paid for its restoration, and I never saw my wheelbarrow again.

"Impelled by purely philanthropic principles, we once undertook to civilize, Christianize and domesticate a wild Winnebago Indian squaw, who answered to the euphonious name of Lenape. This young squaw was about thirteen years old when brought to us in the usual filthy Indian costume. After the ablution process had been performed, and the vermin extricated from her head, she was dressed in citizen's attire and really made an attractive figure. She was expected to assist in some domestic duties, and at first evinced quite a desire to
learn, but the charm lasted but a few days, when she suddenly disappeared, and when next seen had donned her native costume, and returned to her wild, roving indolent habits.

"The Indians were very loth to leave their old fishing and hunting grounds in the vicinity of the lakes, and for several years hovered around in camps in the neighborhood of Madison, and it frequently happened after obtaining liquor, that they became very noisy and troublesome, particularly in their dexterous mode of thieving, which was almost equivalent to professional slight of hand performances.

"The following good story is told of Cal-i-ma-nee, an old Winnebago head chief, who was invited to Washington to arrange some matters between his tribe and the Great Father. Cal-i-ma-nee was accompanied by a second chief named Snake. During their absence from Wisconsin they had learned to talk some English, and had paid some attention to the rules of etiquette. When they returned they were furnished with new blankets, plenty of trinkets and money to pay their way home, also an order from the War Department on the commanding officer at Fort Dearborn, Chicago, for two horses to carry them. They left Chicago in grand style, the old man considerably inflated with vanity and importance at the attention paid him, and we hear no more of them until they arrive at Blue Mounds, which place they reached about noon. Cal-i-ma-nee knew Brigham, for he was known by everybody in the country, The chief thought he had found a good opportunity to display the politeness as well as shrewdness he had learned from his pale face brothers on his recent tour to the National Capitol. Riding up to the house he accosted the old hero thus: "How! How! Brigham." Then dismounting he presented his man Snake, saying, "Brigham, Mr. Snake;" "Mr. Snake, Brigham." Pointing to the house, he said, "Brigham, dinner;" then to the stable, "Brigham, horse, corn." "Big man, me." Mr. Brigham kept a bachelor's ranch and did his own cooking, but to expedite matters for his most important guests, he called in one of his workmen to aid in preparing dinner. From the manner in which they devoured the victuals it was consid-
erred doubtful whether they had broken fast between Chicago and Blue Mounds, a distance of over two hundred miles. After dinner, Cal-i-ma-née called out, “Brigham, horse.” The horses were brought, the Indians mounted, saying, “Brigham, good bye,” and rode off at full speed. Mr. Brigham, finding himself badly sold, remarked to the bystanders that he thought they might have paid him something after putting him to so much trouble, especially as the chief had made a display of a quantity of silver coin furnished him by the Government to pay his expenses.

“For many years the Winnebagoes had made the head of the Fourth Lake their winter camping grounds, from which locality they sallied out in small parties for the purpose of fishing and hunting. Their camps were distributed around on the streams in the vicinity. Sugar river was one of their favorite places of resort for game.

“Mr. Brigham relates the following singular incident which took place some years before Madison was located. He — Mr. Brigham — happened to be at the camp at the time, which was situated on Sugar river crossing, near Grand Springs. An aged Indian became reduced by sickness and disease. He had the consumption and was failing rapidly. The medicine man of the camp had exhausted his best skill on the patient in vain. The chiefs of the tribes were summoned in consultation. The spirits were invoked, and an incantation held with them, accompanied by singing and dancing, and, when concluded, the decision arrived at was, that the sick man must be removed to the headquarters at Four Lakes. The snow was about a foot deep at the time. Hunters were sent out to kill a buck, which they did, and brought into camp next day. The animal was carefully skinned by the squaws, and the invalid securely sewed up in the green buckskin and tied to the tail of a stout pony. In this manner he was dragged to the Four Lakes camp a distance of about twenty miles. As the narrator did not accompany this novel expedition, he was unable to say whether the subject so tenderly cared for was killed or cured.

“After a few years the Indians were all removed from the vi-
ximity of Madison, by orders from the government, to their reservation west of the Mississippi, much to the relief of the citizens, for close contact with them soon removed every spark of the romance and poetry with which they had in our imaginations been surrounded from the reading of Cooper’s novels, and other like literature.

“As yet there was little farming done or produce raised in Dane, and I was obliged to make sundry wagon trips to Green county, to procure butter, beef, pork, potatoes and other kinds of vegetables to keep our house going. There were then no bridges on the road to Monroe, and there was difficulty in crossing the streams. To be ‘stuck’ with a loaded wagon was a daily occurrence in almost every stream on the road. When ‘stuck,’ it generally became necessary to carry your load out on your back, or with your hands by piecemeal, deposit it on the further bank, then, with your horses hitched to the end of the wagon tongue, where they would most likely get dry footing, you must wade into the water waist deep with a sapling to pry out the wheels: by this means, with considerable language more expressive than elegant, directed especially at your horses, you reach dry ground and then re-load; but when your stock consisted of potatoes and turnips in bulk, and you had nothing but a wooden bucket at your service with which to transfer your load, you can imagine the amount of philosophy it required to do this good naturally, and more especially in a wet or rainy day, and the probabilities very strong that you would have to repeat the process at the next stream.

“I shall always remember one particular occasion on which I was returning from one of these periodical trips. After much persuasion, I had induced my good sister, Mrs. McFadden, of Grand Springs, to fill a patent pail with choice fresh butter, which I carefully stowed away in the back part of my well-loaded wagon. Any one living in Madison at that time may possibly realize the value of a bucket of nice dairy butter. The owner would be envied by all his neighbors for being the fortunate possessor of such a prize. I drove along happy at the thought of being able to cater to my guests to the envy
and jealousy of others, and enjoying in anticipation the welcome I would receive on reaching home with it. But, before long, I experienced the sad truth of the old rhyme,

"Twixt cup and lip there's many a slip."

There were many boulders and deep ruts in the road, the wagon jolted and the bucket of butter rolled out, I driving carelessly on, unconscious of my loss. I had traveled some four or five miles before I missed my treasure. As soon as I made the discovery I unharnessed one of my horses, mounted him bare-backed, and went back at a cantering speed, and reached the ill-fated spot where I had met the sad misfortune, just in time to scare off a pack of wolves that had not only devoured the entire contents of the bucket, but had actually eaten the greater part of the bucket itself, it had become so impregnated with the golden butter.

"We were very much troubled for help during the first year of our sojourn in Madison. To spend four or five days in traversing Rock and Green counties in search of a cook or chambermaid, and return without one, and be compelled to turn in and assist in doing your own cooking, and make your own bed, required the cultivation of much patience and fortitude, which bordered on genuine heroism.

"To provide for the winter I had a large quantity of hay cut on the marsh east of the capitol, between the lakes. The grass was best at the lower end of the marsh, but the surface was so underlaid with quicksand, although it would support a man it would not an animal. After the hay was made we found we could not approach it either with horse or ox teams. We overcame the difficulty by placing crates or racks on two long poles fastened together in style of a stretcher or handbarrow, and fastened clapboards to the bottoms of the boots of the carriers, who could then carry out large loads, and thus we saved our crop.

"During the summer of 1838, a two-horse stage line was put in operation from Mineral Point to Madison, owned by Col. Ab. Nichols. The distance was about fifty miles, and the only
post offices on the route were Dodgeville, Ridgeway and Blue Mounds; the latter point was made the midway or half-way house, where passengers and horses were fed on the way. The line was afterwards extended to Fort Winnebago, and Rowan's made a stopping place on the route. At Madison we entertained all the stage passengers and most of the drivers. With the latter we always kept on good terms, and were often under obligations to them for kind favors in bringing our supplies of groceries and other things from the 'Pint,' or 'Shake-rag,' as they called it.

"Tom Haney drove in the first stage from the Point. He kept this head quarters at the 'Worser,' in which the stage proprietor was interested. Tom was a good friend of ours, a hail fellow, exceedingly obliging and accommodating. He had and deserved many friends. In extending the stage line to Fort Winnebago, a span of extra horses were required at Madison, and it was arranged that Tom Haney should bring them through one at a time. Accordingly one extra horse was duly entered on the way bill with orders for the proprietors of the stage house in Madison to take charge of the animal, and look out for another by the next stage. Tom set out as usual with his stage load of passengers from Mineral Point, and the extra horse lashed to the hind axle-tree with a stout windlass or well rope. All went well and smoothly—Dodgeville, Ridgeway and the Mounds were all left in the distance, Nine Mile Prairie was passed and the woods entered. Some distance this side of the Prairie there is quite a descent from a high rolling plateau down into the valley, which is nearly on a level with the Lakes. The slope is not steep but gradual. The rains had washed the ruts so that it became necessary to make another track on the hill side. These tracks diverged in the valley at the base of the hill in the shape of a letter V, and about half way up the hill formed a junction similar to the V reversed or the letter A without the bar. In the junction, or the apex of A, stood an oak tree. Usually there is nothing significant in an oak tree, especially when the surrounding forest is composed of oak trees. They may stand on either side of the road
or between the two roads, they are simply forest trees placed where they are by Providence, subservient to the use of man, but this one placed at the forks of this road had its mission to perform, as we will soon see. Persons accustomed to traveling in stage coaches know that when a the driver approach a city, a station or even a postoffice, they resort to fast driving. Tom Haney was not behind his fellow Jehus in that line. Now, having reached the brow of the hill, instead of putting on the brakes and driving down slowly, as careful drivers should have done, he started his team with a yell and crack of his whip and came rattling down at full speed, the stage taking the road on one side of the tree and the extra horse the road on the other. The rope brought the horse with such sudden force against the tree as to break his neck. The extra horse was not receipted for, nor was the other sent by the next stage. When Haney reached Madison his feelings were something akin to those of your humble servant when he found the wolves had devoured his butter rolls.

"Extravagancies such as this, with many other unforeseen mishaps and direlections of drivers, created the necessity of placing agents upon the route. The first agent, or superintendent rather, of this two horse enterprise, was Jonathan Taylor, accompanied by a tall, lean, lank Kentuckian, whom he introduced as Micajah Thacher, a new driver. We found Thacher a most obliging fellow, well posted in horse flesh, as drivers generally are. Mr. Taylor hailed from Wabash, Indiana, a noble specimen of a Hoosier, remarkably good looking and generous to a fault. Although somewhat deficient in education he was possessed of good hard sense, and a remarkable knowledge of men and the world. He was very shrewd at a trade and soon evinced fine business qualities, which, with his kind heart and frank, open countenance, made him very popular. He quartered with us and an attachment for our family soon sprung up, and he remained with us nearly ten years. After the stage line passed from Uncle Ab's hands, Mr. Taylor commenced the world with a two horse team purchased on credit. He hauled goods from Chicago and Mil-
waukeee to Madison, and in the winter season brought sled loads of Mackinaw trout from Green Bay, carried them to the Point and Galena, returning with articles needed at Madison, Fort Winnebago, Fond du Lac and Green Bay. I have not time to follow his career, sufficient to say he prospered, and now lives on Fifth Avenue in New York city and counts his wealth by hundreds of thousands.

"Being desirous of adding something useful to the Capital city in the way of domestic animals, I brought some fine shots from Green county—the first brought to Madison. They thrived well and increased rapidly in numbers. When autumn came and acorns were plenty, I turned them out to forage for themselves. The drove wandered down to the lake shores, and when I thought them in a sufficiently good condition to kill, I undertook to drive them home, but to my utter astonishment I found them perfectly wild; they would neither be led, driven or coralled. So hunting parties were made up, and my beautiful porkers were hunted down with dogs; shot and captured as wild game, and once more we had to depend on Green county for supplies for the winter. Col. DANIEL BAXTER furnished us a great deal of acceptable produce that winter.

"The next season I procured some pigs of a more domestic breed, and kept them penned close to my house near to the old cabins, but in spite of neighbors' dogs and all the care I could bestow on them, they were carried off by the prairie wolves.

"The wolves continued to annoy the people of Madison very greatly until we petitioned the county authorities to pass an order fixing a bounty on their scalps. The Board of Commissioners finally yielded to this request and established a bounty. A wolf hunter soon turned up in the person of WILLIAM LAWRENCE. He undertook to catch them with steel traps, but as 'their name was legion,' he found that process entirely too slow and resorted to poison. By a skillful distribution of strychnine, he succeeded in soon bringing in a large number of scalps and leaving a large number of their
carcasses on the town site, and in this manner a quietus was placed upon their further depredations and annoyances.

"In the fall of 1838, the first session of the Territorial Legislature was held at Madison, and with it came crowds of people. The public houses were literally crammed — shake downs were looked upon as a luxury, and lucky was the guest considered whose good fortune it was to rest his weary limbs on a straw or hay mattress. We hired some feather beds from Mr. Nute of Jefferson county and paid ten dollars in advance for the use of each during the session.

"Among our boarders that winter I remember the names of the following members of the Legislature: Col. James Maxwell and O. Beardsley of Walworth county, Morgan L. Martin and Alex. J. Irwin of Brown county. Then there were Ben. C. Eastman, Joseph G. Knapp, Peter B. Grignon, Theodore Green of Green Bay, who officiated as clerks, reporters, etc., of the Legislature. Mr. Knapp says these were the ‘aristocracy of Wisconsin.’ We thought so too and treated them as such.

"We had then no theatres or any places of amusement, and the long winter evenings were spent in playing various games of cards, checkers and backgammon. Dancing was also much in vogue. Col. Maxwell was very gay, and discoursed sweet music on the flute, and Ben. C. Eastman was an expert violinist. They two furnished the music for many a French four, cotillon, Virginia reel and jig, that took place on the puncheon floors of the old log cabins, that were enjoyed, probably, quite as much as are now the round dances and Germans on the waxed floors of fashionable dancing halls, to the witching strains of Dodsworth’s fine band. Want of ceremony, fine dress, classic music and other evidences of present society life, never deterred us from enjoying ourselves those long winter evenings.

"Log cabins stand no chance in competition with new fashionable hotels — rivals of Delmonico’s, Fifth Avenue and the Grand Central — not that patrons fared any better than at the cabins, but “the aristocracy,” the unerring barometer of the
in all countries and in all places, soon gave convincing proofs of the decline of business, and that shakedowns were no more necessary and puncheon floors absolutely vulgar, then, in our anguish of soul, in the language of Othello, we found our 'occupation gone;' and as we were Micawber-like 'waiting for something to turn up,' the mail, a much rarer visitor then than now, brought us a letter enclosing an agreeable surprise, which was nothing more nor less than a commission from Governor Dodge, appointing me to the office of Treasurer of the Territory of Wisconsin. This was done at the instance of our good friend 'Uncle Ab.,' of the 'Point,' without our knowledge. The salary was fixed at sixty dollars per annum, and no stealings. I accepted, gave bonds, entered upon the duties of, and continued acting as such officer, until my bond mysteriously disappeared from the archives of the executive department. By this act of prestigitation, I was teetotally cleaned out and exterminated from the high and honorable position as Treasurer. I have not the slightest recollection of a single dollar of money ever passing through my hands as disbursing officer of the Territory, yet some important financial paper transactions took place. The issuing of the Baxter bonds to complete the capitol were perhaps as important as any. These were signed by your humble servant as Treasurer, and countersigned by N. C. Prentiss as Commissioner of Public Buildings. They were issued on fine paper, and passed current in Chicago.

"In the meantime, Dane county was organized according to the laws of the Territory. At the first election, in 1839, I was put in nomination for the office of Register of Deeds. We had then no party politics to influence and control elections. My competitor, Darwin Clark, was considered a good man. He came to Madison with Bird's party of laborers to work on the capitol, had shared their hardships, toiled with them, and claimed their votes, whilst I had come there with my family to reside as a citizen. I was the candidate of the resident population, and was sustained by them. We both ran on our merits and good standing in the community. We canvassed the county fairly, honorably and without the slightest attempt at
disparagement of each other. No canvass could have been more fairly or honorably made. After the canvassing, I reported to my friends that I would be elected by a majority of one. I was advised to re-canvass, which I did as thoroughly as before, and arrived at the same result. It was insisted that I should use means to turn some of my opponent’s votes in my favor. This I positively refused to do, stating that I would rather be defeated than resort to anything underhanded to obtain my election. I was perfectly willing to risk my election with a plurality of a single vote. On counting the votes after the poll, I found myself elected by a majority of two votes, which much surprised me and remained a mystery until some time after, when a friend explained to me, after exacting a promise of secrecy on my part, that the extra vote was obtained by strategy to make my election sure.

"Dane county is composed of what was originally a part of the counties of Milwaukee, Brown and Iowa. The titles to the lands lying within these counties had been recorded in the original counties. Under an act of the Territorial Legislature, it became my duty, as Register of Deeds, to have these records transcribed for the use of Dane county. In the prosecution of these labors, I visited Milwaukee and Green Bay on horseback, and made arrangement for the transcripts of those portions of the records necessary. In the county of Iowa I did the transcribing myself, often working twelve, fourteen, and sometimes sixteen, hours a day. This work was well and satisfactorily done. No more than ordinary (and I think less), fees were paid for this work in county scrip, and nothing for expenses of travel, so that no money was made by the operation. At the next election I was nominated for reelection, but this time more than one vote was covered by strategy on the other side, and I was defeated by a small majority.

"On a beautiful Sunday morning, when the religious community of Madison were assembled in the Representative Hall in the capitol, attending divine service, a servant came hastily from the American House to the door of the Hall, and inquired for Dr. Lull, who was called out with Mr. Faye, the landlord
of the hotel. On perceiving them hurrying across the park, Mr. Sholes and myself, with several others, followed and over-took them as they reached the house, where we were informed that Mr. Duncomb, one of the guests, had locked himself in his room, stood up before the mirror, and deliberately cut his throat with a razor, the act having been witnessed by a servant in the backyard, through the windows, which were open. We were not long in forcing the door open, when, to our horror, we saw this man Duncomb standing on the floor with his throat cut from ear to ear, the bloody instrument still in his hand, which was instantly wrested from him. Both main arteries and the windpipe had been severed. He looked like a madman. The sight was awful. Mr. Fake fainted. Those most resolute took hold of the man all covered with blood, which was still flowing from his throat and gashes in his arms, and laid him on the floor, where it took the united strength of four men to keep him. He could not speak, but wrote with a pencil on paper, 'all I want is to see my wife,' which dying request could not be granted. The scene is as vivid in my mind as if it had happened yesterday. He had been observed to act strangely in the morning, and tried to persuade his wife not to go to church, but she feared to remain with him.

"It was discovered that he had cut the arteries of both arms and had written his name on the walls of his room with his finger dipped in his own blood, and had broken open his wife's trunk and sprinkled her clothes with it, and scattered them over the floor. He expired in about twenty minutes after we entered the room. Jealousy was the only cause ever assigned for the dreadful deed, and it was considered very fortunate his wife had absented herself, or in his frenzy he would probably have murdered her also.

"Our good neighbor, Mr. Rasdall, once owned a valuable gray horse, but from long usage and old age, the animal became useless, and was turned out to browse; when through with life's weary wanderings, he had reached that period so graphically expressed in the song of the departed soldier:

'Old fellow, you've played out your time,'
he hied himself to the summit of an elevated knoll of ground on the Third Lake shore, in a southwesterly direction from our house, and there, in full hearing of the melancholy murmurings of the waters, as the waves rolled against the shores, he laid himself down and gave up the ghost; the soft and balmy breezes from that direction, not exactly perfumed with the rose or lavender, gave us timely warning thereof. Scavengers, there were yet none, and in the absence of other or better authorities, we engaged some boys to perform the act of cremation on this defunct quadruped. A funeral pyre of dry brush was built over the subject and the torch applied, this ended only in smoke; another, and another fire of the same material caused a denser smoke, perfumed with unambrosial odor; finding our first experiment at cremation proving a total failure, we caused a pit to be dug, and the unconsumed remains of the horse, with the smouldering ashes, to be swept therein and covered up, when the air soon became purifed. This spot was for a long time protected by a flag staff and pendant erected there by the boys of the village, who also buried sundry favorite dogs and cats on the same ground, always with a procession and military honors; they called it the hecatombs.

"Father Quaw, a very clever old gentleman, made his first appearance in black, he was the advance guard of the clergy — a Presbyterian, hailing from the British Provinces. Afterwards, the highly esteemed Bishop Kemper visited Madison, and organized an Episcopal Church there. It will by found by the records of that church, that I was appointed a vestryman of that organization. I was also pressed into service as the leader of singing choirs at religious meetings of all kinds and in all places, and it was understood that my house was open and free to all traveling clergymen, of any and all denominations, and there were not a few who availed themselves of this information.

"The foregoing reminiscences of transactions occurred during the second and third years of my residence in Wisconsin (my first year was spent in Green county); most of these scenes transpired more than thirty-five years since, whilst many, very many others have passed entirely from my memory."