HISTORY OF MADISON AND DANE COUNTY.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY OF THE BOOK.

MADISON, Wis., February 18, 1878.

MESSRS. W. J. PARK & Co.: Gentlemen: I have received and read your History of Madison and Dane County with deep interest and pleasure, having myself been an eye witness of many things related therein. I regard it as a valuable collection of incidents and transactions peculiar to the first settlement of a new country, which, but for your efforts and energy, would have soon passed to that oblivion from which there is no resurrection. Your book is valuable in proportion as the preservation of the principal events of pioneer life is desirable.

Yours truly,
SIMON MILLS.

MADISON, Wis., February 20, 1878.

W. J. PARK: My dear sir: I have carefully read your History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings. It is certainly a very interesting and valuable contribution to history; and you are entitled to the thanks and confidence of the people of Dane county for rescuing from oblivion so many interesting facts and incidents touching our early settlement.

I read the book with a peculiar interest, for I know personally nearly every one of the old settlers in every town named by you in the book. There are a few inaccuracies, which can readily be corrected. I mention only one: In the history of the town of Medina, where for a time I lived, the name of N. J. Thompkins is not mentioned. He was one of its first and most trusty settlers. This error, and some others, which you have doubtless discovered, should be corrected in subsequent editions, and thus it will be a book which ought to be in every house in this county.

Yours truly,
GEO. B. SMITH.

A HISTORY OF MADISON, DANE COUNTY, AND SURROUNDINGS, from the press of David Atwood, Madison, W. J. PARK & Co., publishers, has just appeared. It is a neat book of nearly 700 pages, printed upon good paper and clear type. It is a compilation of previous histories of Madison, with many important links supplied, and a review of the early settlement of each of our Dane county townships. The publication possesses, more than local interest. In its scope it embraces much of the history of the state at large. The historical events connected with the location of the capital at this place reach far back into territorial times, and references are often made to the public proceedings, and to the acts of early pioneers, who laid the foundation upon which the history of Wisconsin is constructed. The enterprising publishers have performed a good work, and are richly entitled to the thanks and encouragement of the public. Every household in the city and country ought to obtain a copy. Time will increase its value.—Home Diary.

The History of Madison and townships of Dane county, recently published by W. J. Park & Co., is by far the most accurate and complete work of its kind. With some defects and omissions, it yet embodies in admirable form the main substance of our local annals, arranged in natural order, instead of yearly incidents, which, to my mind, is a defective plan, since the life of the times is forgotten in the mere recital of facts, which, in themselves, by no means constitute history. The ground work is indeed laid for a perfect record, which comparison and discussion will no doubt speedily complete.

Nothing is more difficult in this class of works, than to make the present generations really comprehend the pioneer life of even thirty years ago. In vain we heap up facts and experiences. The later comers lack all data for comparison. When we say that scarce a score of dwellings or improvements were to be found along the entire old road to Milwaukee; that but two or three farms were opened between Madison and Janesville; as many more between the same place and Monroe; but one or two to the Blue Mounds; but one to Prairie du Sac and what is now Portage City, and Columbus; and but three or four to "Johnson's Mills"—now Watertown—the repit of the fact is but a tame statement of the reality. So of pioneer hunting days. That we rode freely and without obstruction all about the lakes, over prairies and through woodland, as yet undisturbed by improvements; without roads, bridges or artificial landmarks—where, indeed, a settler was a conspicuous novelty—and a "breaking" a novelty, is not comprehensible to the present, when every foot of soil has come into actual possession or cultivation.
Testimonials—History of Madison and Dane County.

With mails now received from all points at least twice daily, who but the pioneer remembers the old stage coach, taking three days to make trips to Milwaukee and as many to Galena, then our commercial emporium—Chicago before it became a place of traffic; that our latest news from New York was never less than two, and in winter often four or more, old, when received. That, to be brief, a population of about 50,000 in 1840 has increased to nearly 1,500,000 in 1877. Yet such are the changes that have passed like a dream before the eyes of the first comers to this goodly land, within a single generation. It was an experience never to be repeated, and there is nothing worthy of record in its minutest detail for the instruction of a people who will live under conditions in nearly every scene utterly changed. Both to the old settlers, and to the present and future, this enterprise is indeed invaluable. Its benefits will be more and more prized, as centuries advance.

H. A. TENNEY.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, December 14, 1877.

W. J. PARK & Co.—Dear Sirs: Permit me to congratulate you upon the publication of your "Madison, Dane County and Surroundings." In typographical execution and binding, it reflects great credit on Madison and on the northwest. The paper, type, illustrations, etc., are all very neat and perfect; in short, it is a solid and neat book. I also want to thank you for the pains you have taken in collecting so much pioneer history. The idea of finding in each township the historian of the town, was a very happy one, and so far as I am acquainted, you have been uniformly successful in the choice of your men,—no easy task. Every county in the state should have a history like this, and it is a book that will increase in value with every year henceforth. I consider my volume a solid addition to my library as well as an ornament. Again thanking you for the genuine service you have thus rendered to the preservation of our local history, I am, dear sirs.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. ANDERSON.

MADISON, December 29, 1877.

MESRS. WM. J. PARK & CO. Gentlemen.—I have received your History of Madison, Dane county, and its surroundings, and have read it through with much interest. Written as it has been by so many different hands, the style of its composition is much varied, but sparkles with gems, though the settings are sometimes a little rough.

Local history and the geography of our immediate vicinity are receiving more attention than ever before. It is well; for the study of geography and history, like charity, should begin at home; and having so begun, should, like charity, not stop at home, but go out into the world. The influence of your book will be to remind its readers that each one is making history every day, and that as the pioneers of this vicinity have made the desert to bloom and blossom as the rose, so we should leave behind us foot-prints on the sands of time.

Would it not be a good idea for every farmer to keep a history of his farm? Let him give the date of its purchase, the price paid, the history of the improvements made, embracing the size and plan of the buildings, the year in which they were erected, their cost, and every incident of any considerable note connected therewith. If the farm is sold, let the history go with it, and be continued by the purchaser. The like history of a city lot would in time become to the owner of the property a matter of great interest.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN O. CLARK.

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 28, 1877.

W. J. PARK & Co. Dear Sirs: I have read with much interest your History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings. The conception of such a work was a happy thought, and its execution is a great credit to the author and publishers. The early settlers are rapidly passing away, and with them the possibility of recovering many of these early incidents which form the basis of history. The publication of these sketches at so early a date will afford every opportunity of correcting such errors as the imperfection of memory may suffer to pass. Truly yours,

STEPHEN H. CARPENTER.

W. J. PARK & Co., Madison, Wis.: Gents: I have to acknowledge your kindness in sending me a copy of your History of Madison and Dane county. It is a very attractive book, and besides its interest to "old settlers," whose recollection will be pleasantly revived by its narratives, I think it will be an acceptable book to all who, for any reason, are interested in the county or its people. I trust that somebody may find as much pleasure in reading my record as I have had in reading several of the accounts of others.

Yours truly,

J. R. BRIGHAM.
Testimonials—History of Madison and Dane County.

MADISON, December 13, 1877.

W. J. PARK, Dear Sir: I have read your book, "The History of Madison and Dane County," with a great deal of pleasure, and I can certify to its correctness so far as I have seen in it. I congratulate you upon getting out a work of so much interest to the people of Dane County, and so valuable in preserving the history of early times. It is a book that will be very interesting to the old settlers, recalling to them the scenes of early days, and to others, in giving a true history of pioneer life in Dane county in those early times. It is a valuable book and should be in every family in Dane county.

Yours truly,

Wm. E. THOMAS.

KANKAKEE, Ill., November 12, 1877.

FRIEND PARK: Please accept my thanks for the History of Madison. You have got out a book which is a credit to you, and will perpetuate a great deal of early history, especially interesting just now, because you will have so many readers who have had a personal participation in much of what you describe, and a personal knowledge of what you narrate. I hope you will receive a rich reward for your labor and the money expended on the book. Madison yet seems to me like home, and I am glad you have done so well in contributing to her good name and fame. Yours truly,

CHAS. HOLT.

COTTAGE GROVE, Wis., Dec. 10, 1877.

MR. W. J. PARK: After a careful and somewhat critical perusal of your History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings, I am pleased to say that it is a work that fully and fairly fills a space in the history of our county and state that has heretofore been unfilled. The History is ably and truthfully written; and the "git up" of the work shows that Madison is capable of doing work that can well be called "first-class," in paper, typography and binding. I hope you will succeed in placing a copy in every home in both county and state.

Respectfully,

JAMES BELL.

SPRINGFIELD, November, 1877.

W. J. PARK & Co. — Gents: Having read most and examined all of your book entitled "The History of Madison, Dane County and Surroundings," I have in the process of bringing out so large and interesting a book at the price. The illustrations are good and must have cost a large sum to engrave. The book is both instructing and amusing, printed on clear paper, and in large type, making it easy for the old settlers to read; indeed, it is gotten up and bound in good style, making it an ornamental as well as useful book.

I have no doubt but your very gentlemanly agent, Mr. Barnes, will find a ready sale for it in every family in Dane county — many out of it ought to purchase a copy.

Yours truly,

E. HARDING.

PITTSBURG, October 21, 1878.

MR. W. J. PARK—Dear Sir: Your kind favor of the History of Dane County came to hand during the week, and in returning the acknowledgment, I beg you to accept my sincere thanks. The first time I visit home I shall want to get four or six copies of the work as presents to friends — and presume I can get them of you. I expect to have my boat ready to bring our correspondence to the city, and hope it will come out with her, and will be in your hands in the near future. In the delay I have experienced in building I expect some gain in model and a new screw, which is expected to be of considerable value as to speed and power. But of this, more anon. With hopes for a wide circulation for your book, and financial success, I am,

Very truly yours,

J. L. WILLIAMS.

HISTORY OF DANE COUNTY.—This new work issued by Wm. J. Park & Co., has long been looked forward to by the public of Dane county, with eager anticipation. In its completion, however, it meets the most sanguine expectation and is creditable in every particular to its indefatigable publishers and to the many gentlemen throughout the county whose aid has been enlisted in its preparation.

The volume now lies before us, bound in a picturesque yet substantial manner, printed in the highest perfection of the art preservative, and abounding in valuable information relative to Dane county and its surroundings, presented in most attractive and readable form. There are voluminous chapters upon the earlier history of Wisconsin, the location of the capital, the pioneers, the State University, and churches, the summer resorts, the houses of Madison, the scholastic features, the mounds and the Historical Society. Following these, are general and analytical histories of the county as a whole, of the several towns therein, and of the adjacent towns of Brooklyn, Edgerton, Evansville, Lake Koshkonong and Lodi. There is an entertaining chapter of personal recollections, being interesting
aneedotes written up for the occasion by Gen. Geo. B. Smith, Eliza Burke, Esq., Hon. W. M. Welch, Adam Smith of Sun Prairie, and others; while an extended list of county, village, city and state offices is very useful for future reference, and greatly adds to the intrinsic value of the large volume.

In short, this history will fill a void in the annals of the state, and prove highly acceptable to the reading public of Dane county; old settlers will find it an epitome of the trials and triumphs of their pioneer life, while newcomers will esteem it as a valuable record of the past, in which all alike are interested.—State Journal.

HISTORY OF MADISON, DANE COUNTY, AND SURROUNDINGS. —We have received a copy from the publishers, W. J. Park & Co., and after looking over the same with some care, we can say truthfully that it is worthy a place in every Madison home. It is the best history of the kind ever published. Its compilation has been attended to with great care. The history of our fair city, like the good book, begins: “In the beginning.” The reader will soon come to the “locating of the capital.” Follow on and you will find interesting matter, and many familiar names. Of course the first house in Madison (1837) will interest you. The first engraving, after the frontispiece, represents Mrs. Eben Peck, the first female settler in Madison, in 1837. A fine steel engraving presents an excellent likeness of Gen. Simeon Mills. It could not be bettered. Then comes a woodcut representing Hon. Lyman C. Ireland, an old citizen, and a reliable historian, long connected with the State Historical Society.

A number of the most prominent towns in the county are mentioned in the volume. Their histories were written by men well posted.

Lists of county, village and city offices, prepared with care, appear. The same will be read with interest.

The book is worth a place in your library. Its typography is excellent. David Atwood is the stenotypist and printer.—Madison Democrat.

MADISON DANE COUNTY AND SURROUNDING TOWNS; Park & Co. Publ.

This book comes to us in neat and durable binding. It is well arranged and written, being the first work of the kind ever published, and so worthy that it should be found among the books of every library in Dane county.

The leading idea of the publishers — to carefully collect facts and incidents of the early history of this section — has been well carried out. We find great pleasure in reviewing the many interesting exploits of our forefathers as they came to this wilderness and hewed out homes among the wild woods, or as they wandered forth over the trackless prairies in pursuit of wild game until they were many miles from home and friends, without compass or landmark to aid them in retracing their steps. They were often dependent solely on the heavenly bodies — God’s own land-marks.—University Press.

HISTORY OF DANE COUNTY. — We have received a copy of the “History of Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Villages,” and have realized a large fund of enjoyment and information while perusing its pages. We, of the present day, but little realize the many hardships endured by the early settlers in old Dane, and, but for the energy of Messrs. Park & Co. (the publishers of this history), would, in all probability, never have heard even of the “Smoky Mountains,” the battle of “Wisconsin Heights,” and many other incidents that bear an important part in the early settlement of the county. If you are not already a subscriber to the work, order a copy of the publishers. Every one of our readers who have at some time resided in this county should have a copy. — Black Earth Advertiser.

HISTORY OF DANE COUNTY. — A new book of over 650 pages has just been issued in Madison, entitled “History of Madison, Dane County, and Surrounding Towns.” We have carefully examined a copy of the work, and find that it is replete with matter of interest to every resident of the county. The chapter devoted to Mazomanie is written by Henry Howarth and Henry Z. Mosse, and the history of our town receives the fullest and ablest consideration. The authors of this part of the work evidently spent a great deal of time on the historical sketch; nothing seems to have been left undone that could be done to make the work a household necessity in Mazomanie. Black Earth, Berry, Roxbury and towns in this vicinity are presented with a history hardly less interesting to us than that of our own town, and in fact the reader will be pleased with every page of the history of Dane. This book is handsomely bound, the mechanical part is of the first order. The publishers are W. J. Park & Co., Madison.—Mazomanie Sickle.

PUBLISHED BY WM. J. PARK & CO.,