

## HISTORICAL VIEW.

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Madison the capitol of the State of Wisconsin and the seat of justice for Dane county is beautifully situated on a tract of land lying between lakes Mendota and Monona, the third and fourth of the four lakes, it is also on the line of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, about equal distance from Milwaukee and the Mississippi river. It being 100 miles to Milwaukee and the same distance to Prairie du Chien.

The first permanent white settler of Madison dates back to 1837. Mr. Eben Peck arriving here with his family, and built a log house as a boarding house for the commissioners and laborers. This house was the first built in Madison, and Mr. Peck the first settler.

In the month of June following. Col. A. A. Bird, acting commissioner, came from Milwaukee, in company with about forty workmen and a train of four wagons, loaded with provisions, tools, and such other things as would be most needed.

Their journey at that time was far from being one of pleasure unless we consider pleasure to be the gratification of longings of the mind to see in reality its future visionary conceptions. There was no road, the party having to cut their own way through the forest, harden their own track across the swamp and build their own ferry which launched them across the stream, thus making a journey of ten days. The first store erected, was built by Mr. Simeon Mills, a block house, fifteen feet square, in which was also kept the post office—Mr. Mills being deputy post-master, Mr. John Cattlin being the first lawyer here. The first physician of Madison was Almon Lull, who came in 1838. Changes were constantly intervening from this time until 1856, when Madison unrolls its own charter over a population of five thousand inhabitants under the mayorship of Col. J. C. Fairchild, with also the first

board of aldermen elected—three in each ward—being twelve in number. At about this time seems to have been the real beginning of Madison, not only private dwellings of fine architecture were erected, but numerous stone and brick blocks were built, beyond the immediate want just at this time. The corner stones of several churches were laid, whose spires in a brief length of time prompted the minds of all to their places of worship; several manufactories were started. Hotels of prominence and value took the place of those erected for temporary utility

A railroad was being built from Milwaukee, (now the Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, extending to the Mississippi river,) which reached this place in 1854. The railroad bridge across lake Monona, which had been begun the previous year was completed in the spring, and in May the first train of cars came into the city—and the outlet of Madison by railroad was celebrated with great enthusiasm. A gas company was formed and gas works erected, and soon the gas was conducted over the whole city, proving a successful and remunerative enterprise.

The public grounds, in the center of which stands the State Capitol, occupies the center of the city of an area of about ten acres, containing a large number of shade trees of various kinds.

The capitol stands to the cardinal points, the diameter from north to south being two hundred and fifty feet, and from east to west, two hundred seventy-five feet. Its extreme height, two hundred and twenty-one feet.

The building is composed of four wings. On the first floor, the east wing is occupied by the executive department and secretary of state. West wing, the horticultural rooms and offices of bank comptroller and adjutant general. The north wing, state treasurer's office and state land department. The south wing, attorney general's office and offices of the superintendent of public property and public instruction. The second floor, the east wing is occupied as the state senate chamber, the west wing, as the assembly chamber, the north wing, the state library rooms and the supreme court.

The south wing, the Historical rooms. On the third floor, in the south wing only the rooms are used for miscellaneous purposes.

A view from the dome of the Capitol is quite extensive, a distance in a northern direction of about twenty miles, and in the opposite direction about half the distance. The northern prospect appears to be more of a cultivated country than that of the south—the whole of the view is a broad rolling prairie as far as the eye can reach, dotted along with the rural habitation.

The lakes seemingly viewed from their surface makes the enclosure of the city—rendering its location apparently more in the form of a peninsular whose end is soon reached, when here they lose that expansive aspect which is always deceiving at its surface as we look upon the area of country that here presents itself to view.

In viewing the private mansions we find the same forethought in designing and constructing them—though they do not present as conspicuous an appearance as is exhibited in characterizing the community—showing that, while the appreciation of the public are held in view in the construction of one, the same architectural beauty becomes diversified in the construction of the private home.

In a review of the past records of the Madison Press we find them to be numerous, and for the want of correct statistics in reference to them we only give the present.

The Wisconsin *State Journal*, a Weekly, Tri-Weekly and Daily, published by Atwood & Culver, started as a Weekly in the year 1839, the first issue of the Daily, in 1852,

The Madison *Democrat*, a Weekly and Daily publication published by A. E. Gordon, was first issued in the year 1868.

The Wisconsin *Farmer*, a Weekly Agricultural paper, was started in the year 1848, and continued under this title until 1869. Messrs. Morrow & Bro's. then purchased it and changed its title to *The Western Farmer*, under which title and by whom it is now issued.

The Wisconsin *Botschafter*, a German Weekly, was started in the year 1869, by Messrs. Porsch & Sitzmann.

The *Soldier's Record*, a Literary Monthly paper, was started in the year 1864, by Mr. S. W. Martin, its issue was subsequently changed to a Weekly as it now exists.

There are many fine buildings being erected at the present time, which are not only of durability but an ornament to the city, among

them our attention is called to the new hotel (Park Hotel,) which is now being built, situated on the corner of Main and Carroll streets, one of the most lucrative and conspicuous locations in the city. As for beauty of scenery its frontage might be on either side. The grounds on which it is situated is an elevation to its surroundings, rendering a view far out upon the rolling prairie, overlooking both lakes, Monona and Mendota, which lay along the shores of the city. Its extension on Carroll street is one hundred and sixteen (116) feet, and on Main ninety-five (95) feet. Its height, seventy (70) feet, four stories from the basement, built of Milwaukee white brick. The building will contain one hundred and eighteen (118) sleeping rooms, twelve private parlors, one ladies' and one gentlemen's and ladies' reception room, one general dining room] and one ladies' ordinary, one general office and one private office; besides there will be several suits of rooms with bath and wash rooms and all conveniences attached, one gentlemen's and one ladies' bath room. Water is conducted through every story in the building, with hose attached, so that in case of fire the whole building can be flooded in the shortest possible time. The public rooms are heated by steam, private rooms have marble mantles and grates. There will be a ladies' and gentlemen's balconies, and a two story veranda on the Park front.

The basement will be occupied as a billiard room, bar room and barber shop. The cost of the building and grounds, eighty five thousand (\$85,000) dollars.

There is being erected a very fine post office building, on the corner of Mifflin street and Wisconsin avenue, a heavy stone structure which, when completed, will surpass any of the kind in the state.

There are many other references which it was our aim to speak of, but for the want of space we are obliged to abbreviate.

THE PUBLISHER.