

They held a meeting right away and decided that Mr. Gilmore must go abroad and arrange for their fleet, and where they were to go. They used to send a good many vessels to Cuba and different South American points and had them at their command when they needed them for any of the numerous places where they had interests. Of course the only thing I could do was to assure him I would remain. I had told him what my plans were about coming here and going into business, and he said if I would remain there, and if Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Dole would take hold of the business I had planned, he would be glad to furnish me whatever money I wanted to put in here, at a low rate of interest, which I could pay out of my salary as I was able; but Mr. Dole had not made arrangements to leave his place, and didn't feel equal to the undertaking, and Mr. Kennedy I knew would not undertake to handle the thing here alone, so I had to decline the offer. But I remained with the Gilmores and made myself useful to them and their business until Allen Gilmore's return, and then I went to Glen Falls, N. Y., before starting back this way and secured a man to take my place with them; but within six months the man found he was not able to do what was required of him and gave it up. When I went to Glens Falls, I took your mother with me to see her relatives and friends there.

#### IN EAU CLAIRE TO REMAIN

I knew quite intimately, in Ottawa, a young man, Mr. Playter who was in a drug store, and I was satisfied he would be the kind of man we would need in Eau Claire to start out with as bookkeeper. He was delighted with the opportunity and left Ottawa for Chicago at the same time we left Ottawa for Glens Falls. I arranged to meet him at the old Sherman House, Chicago, on a certain day. We had a girl who had been with us some time of whom your mother thought a good deal, and she wanted to bring her with us, and the girl wanted to come. It was arranged that she would go to Chicago with Mr. Playter

and that we would join them there. We were delayed longer at Glens Falls than I expected we would be, and there had been a wreck on the railroad from Buffalo on, and it seemed advisable to take a steamer from Buffalo to Detroit. A day or two before our arrival in Buffalo one of the steamers plying between Buffalo and Detroit had burned, and of course that fact appealed to our nerves; but we didn't know how long we might be delayed, and decided we would take the chance of being lost on the lake. We left Buffalo about nine o'clock, found plenty of room (not many persons wanting to make the trip then). Of course your mother felt more nervous about it than I did. Before taking our staterooms, to retire, we met a young lady who had come to Buffalo on the steamer which had been burned, and her account of her escape did not make the trip seem so much like a pleasure trip as it would have seemed if we had not talked with her, or known about the accident, and of her being saved by another boat before the steamer was entirely burned. She told us she had clung to a rail at the stern of the boat, and that the fire was getting near to her when she was taken off by another boat. When we retired it was a question with your mother whether she would remove her clothes, but I prevailed on her to remove most of her garments, but she said she would keep her stockings on, anyway. We got some rest, arrived in Detroit in good time the next day, and took a night train to Chicago. There were no sleepers and we had the seats turned. In the night a thief stole your mother's pocket book and money. We arrived in Chicago the next day and found that Mr. Playter and the maid had left for Eau Claire. We took the first train for Milwaukee, where we had to remain over Sunday; then took the first train Monday to Prairie du Chien. There were some good passenger boats on the Mississippi. We took the steamer War Eagle, and among the passengers was Thurlow Weed, the then widely-known editor of the Albany Journal. Mr. Weed was well advanced in years, took much interest in us when he learned we intend-

ed to settle in business, and gave us a history of a recent experience in a trip through the Mediterranean. He said he was employed by the steamship company to settle up some matters between rival lines of boats, for which they paid him \$10,000, making it one of the most profitable pleasure trips he had ever taken. He was then employed to settle up a matter between the State and the old Milwaukee railroad, for which he said he expected to get \$10,000. With many good wishes he bade us good-bye when the boat landed at La Crosse.

When we arrived at Reed's Landing we learned that the last boat had gone down the river, and the only thing we could do would be to board the next boat coming along that would land us at North Pepin, and from there hire a team to Eau Claire. We met at North Pepin a gentleman and his wife who afterwards lived for several years in Eau Claire, on their first trip to Eau Claire. We hired a team together and the first day drove to Dunnville, where we remained all night. The only room left in the hotel was a large one with two beds. Your mother and the other lady went to bed and turned the light down, but not so much but we could see which bed we belonged in. Next morning we were up early and learned there was a man sick with small pox in the room next to the one we had occupied. He had been to St. Louis with a little lot of lumber from Yellow river, and was taken with the small pox when he got that far on his way back.

#### ACQUAINTED WITH J. G. THORP

We reached Elk Creek in time for dinner and there met Mr. J. G. Thorp, who had been over to Eau Galle. They had sent him there with a team, but he was going to foot it to Eau Claire. I had heard about Chapman & Thorp buying the property from Carson & Rand when I was here in February, and I thought it was our duty to take Mr. Thorp into our carriage and bring him to Eau Claire with us. After reaching Eau Claire we were directed by him to the boarding house for the