

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

portable mill we had bought from Mr. Randall. There we found a man and his wife running the boarding house for Mr. Kennedy, and found Mr. Playter and the girl were also there, but we didn't think it a very desirable boarding place. Mr. Kennedy had patiently put up with such fare as they could give him. He was furnishing everything for the house, and it was soon decided that Mrs. Ingram and the girl who came with Mr. Playter could make it a more desirable place for us. Some time that fall Mrs. Kennedy came on, and they stopped during the winter at this same rough-board boarding-house. The house had been lathed, but not plastered. Where we slept, upstairs, we could see daylight along the eaves, as there was no cornice. You can imagine that we had plenty of fresh air, but we also had plenty of blankets and were able to keep warm, although sometimes the snow would blow in and oblige us to cover our heads. Our meat consisted largely of salt pork and occasionally a ham, and for a change we would sometimes have corn beef that was brought here by the barrel. Your mother had an earthen jar in which she kept doughnuts, and another in which she put the fat or lard she saved from frying pork. The pantry was off from the kitchen, and I frequently ran in to see how she was getting on. One day I opened the pantry door, and while talking with her reached into what I supposed to be the doughnut jar, but which proved to be the jar containing the fat or grease, and my hand went down half its length into the soft fat or grease. I turned around to her, laughing, and she wanted to know what I was doing, and I told her I was looking for the doughnuts.