

the Sauks. They, however, shortly after returned to their homes.

Capt. J. B. ESTES arrived at the fort at Prairie du Chien on the 23d of July, with the news of the battle of Wisconsin Heights, and of the flight of BLACK HAWK towards the Upper Mississippi. Col. LOOMIS, then in command at Ft. Crawford, sent the steamer *Enterprise*, of Galena, up the river. At Black River they found forty Winnebagoes, with twenty-eight canoes collected, to aid the retreating Sauks to cross the river. These Indians and their canoes were seized and brought down to Ft. Crawford July 30. The *Enterprise* being a slow boat Col. LOOMIS hired the *Warrior* to go up the river a second time. On the 1st of August this boat ascended to the mouth of Bad Axe River, and here they found the Indians on the east side, and the engagement commenced and the Indians were driven to the woods. The boat returned the same night to Prairie du Chien for wood, and started back, arriving at 10 A. M. On the 2d of August, the battle was continued, and the Indians overwhelmingly defeated.

BLACK HAWK was captured by the Winnebago chiefs CHA-E-TAR and the one-eyed DECORRA, who brought him and the PROPHEET to Prairie du Chien, and delivered them as prisoners to Gen. STREET, the agent of the Winnebagoes, on the 27th of August, 1832.

The cholera raged here severely this year, and one hundred soldiers died in two weeks.

I. P. PERRET GENTIL came here in 1832; has been County Treasurer seventeen years, and Assessor nearly as long.

Dr. A. BRUNSON says: "It was about this time that JEFF. DAVIS, then a Lieut. in the U. S. Army, at this point, stole and married a daughter of Col. Z. TAYLOR, then and for many years in command at this fort. A reconciliation was afterwards effected, and though DAVIS rose to some distinction, it was said that 'old Zack' was never fond of him."

Another authority places this event in 1829.

CHAS. J. LATROBE, an English traveler, was here in 1833—said he found but few Indians, and those were Menomonees. He further adds:

"The old French settlement of Prairie du Chien, founded the same year as the city of Philadelphia, and occupying as much ground as the penitentiary of that flourishing place, lies on the margin of the river, and consists of a few old, gray trading and dwelling houses with nothing either in architecture or position to merit further notice. It seems doomed to remain under the same spell as others of a like origin." Of the old fort he says: "To the north of the village an ancient

quadrangular block-house, built of squared logs, and as usual so contrived as to present eight faces—the upper part of the square standing across the angles of the lower, marks the position of the old military post, which within these few years has been superceded by a large spacious range of stone barracks, built on the gentle swell on the opposite side of the bayou. An Indian mound, round which the new buildings were constructed, was removed in levelling the square, and forty-eight bodies, some enclosed in wooden or bark coffins, were removed. Fort Crawford, as the new erection is called, is calculated to afford quarters to an entire regiment, though only a few companies were there at the time of our visit."

Previous to and until the capture of Black Hawk, the whole country might with propriety be considered Indian territory. There were but a few hundred settlers, and these, except the miners, the army and government officials and traders, were mostly Canadian French, and mixed blood. After the war, the Indian title having been fully extinguished to all that portion of the State lying south and east of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers and Green Bay, the country commenced to settle, and from this time forward may be dated the wonderful growth of the State in all its wealth and prosperity.

In July of this year two river gamblers came up the river to this place. They had taken the small-pox somewhere below, which made its appearance on them here, and from which they died. The disease spread from them to the inhabitants and Indians. Some of the former died, but more of the Indians. In WAUBASHA'S band, where Winona now stands, 140 died. The contagion was said to work its way west to the Missouri river, scattering death among the poor natives. The Mandan Villages were said to have lost all but sixteen souls. The Winnebagoes in this vicinity died by scores and hundreds, and their remains were scattered along the river banks and in the woods, unburied, and eaten up by the wolves.

The United States Government, under a treaty with the Winnebagoes, established a school and opened a farm on Yellow river, in Iowa, nearly opposite this place, of which Rev. DAVID LOWRY had charge. While the buildings were being erected he with the stores for the work, had his headquarters at this place. He organized the first Protestant church of some ten or twelve members. Some of whom, including Gen. STREET, the Indian agent, with this family, were Cumberland Presbyterians; some Methodists, as SAMUEL GILBERT and wife; and some New School Presbyterians, as EZEKIEL TAINTER and J. T. MILLS, then a clerk in the quartermaster's