

# Green Bay Advocate.

Green Bay, Wis., Thursday, Oct. 21, 1886.

VOL. 41.

ROBINSON & CO. PROPRIETORS.

NO. 11.

**Struck a Cemetery.**—The water works trenchers on Tuesday morning struck an old cemetery on Adams street, in front of where F. W. Basche's new residence is being erected, near the corner of Cass street. The skulls and other bones are in a fair state of preservation. Pieces of decayed wood indicate that the bodies were confined, but the wood is so nearly gone that it could not be told of what kind it is. On inquiry of Mr. John Jacobs whether it was an Indian burying ground, he informs us that 50 years ago every class buried there, both Indians and whites. The bones are two feet or less below the surface, from which we judge that during the last half century the sand must have washed away into the river to a depth of three or four feet.

Since the above was in type we have talked with Mrs. L. Martin, a French lady who has resided here for many years. She informs us that this was the first Catholic cemetery here and she can remember when burials were made in it, more than 50 years ago. We have found further corroboration of the fact. The village of Astor, which included this ground, was platted Nov. 5, 1835, on land which formerly belonged to the Grignon family and Judge Lawe, but which had been seized by the American Fur Co. for a debt. The village of Astor, now part of Green Bay, was incorporated by John Jacob Astor, Ramsey Crooks and Robert Stuart. Many buildings were erected in that and the two or three years following. The Astor House was built in 1837 and burned in 1857. About the year 1836 the plat of ground now used as a cemetery in Shantytown (town of Allouez) was purchased and most of the remains removed there from the Astor cemetery, since which time there have been no interments here. It is probable, however, that only those were removed whose friends were able or willing to bear the expense and the streets were laid out and the buildings erected right over the remains of the others. Occasionally, in digging a post hole, well or foundation for a building, human remains have been found.

The water-works trench here runs north and south and the graves found—about 15 in number run east and west—and were intersected by the trench. At first the bones were carelessly thrown out of the trench with the earth, but when the facts became known boxes were provided and some of the old residents carefully gathered them and put them promiscuously into the boxes. The Catholic priests also interested themselves and caused the remains to be re-interred in the cemetery at Allouez.