

I concluded to leave the matter until the arrival of my employers, and let them proceed before Judge Reaume, if they thought proper.*

The Indian trade carried on at that day for the Mississippi and Missouri and their tributaries was from Mackinaw. Until 1816, goods came mostly from Montreal, in batteaux or canoes, mostly by the Mackinaw, or its successor, the South West Company, or by some private traders. But early in 1815, Mr. Astor purchased out the interest of the South West Company at Mackinaw and its dependencies, and in August, of that year, Ramsay Crooks, as already mentioned, went to Mackinaw as agent for Mr. Astor, to complete the arrangements. In the spring of 1816, the goods of the American Fur Company were imported to New York and thence brought by way of the Lakes to Mackinaw. During

Of Judge Reaume, we have learned some additional facts from Hon. Solomon Juneau, and with reference to his death and burial, from P. G. Grignon, through Hon. H. S. Baird, and also from Col. E. Childs. He was born about the year 1752, at La Prairie, nearly opposite Montreal, of a prominent and respectable family. As mentioned in a note to the 1st vol. of the *Wis. Hist. Soc. Colls.*, we early find him at Detroit, and in the service of the British Indian department, as a captain, and was among the prisoners taken by the gallant Col. George Rogers Clark at the capture of Vincennes, in February, 1779, and taking the oath of neutrality, was permitted to return to Detroit. In 1790, he settled at Green Bay, and appears to have been, in a small way, and a part of the time, engaged in the Indian trade. His first commission of Justice of the Peace he probably derived from the British authorities at Detroit, before the surrender of that post to the American government in 1796, and he subsequently received a similar commission from Gov. Harrison of the Indiana Territory. In 1816 and '17, he made his home with John Lawe at Green Bay; and, in 1818, he was appointed by Gov. Cass of Michigan Territory, one of the Associate Justices of the court for Brown county, and the same year, he removed to Little Kaukalin, about ten miles above Green Bay, and there sold liquor to the Indians, not unfrequently drinking freely with them, and sharing in their frays, as well as in blackened eyes and bruises. There he died alone, in the spring of 1822, for he was found dead in his cabin. He was about seventy years of age. His friends at Green Bay had his remains conveyed there, and buried in the old Catholic burial place, which was in the present plat of Astor; but the bodies interred there were subsequently removed to the present burying ground. No tablet marks his grave. He was never married.

In this volume and its predecessor, several anecdotes illustrating Judge Reaume's primitive mode of administering justice, have been given; to which we add the following, from the interesting work of Mrs. Kinzie: "There was an old Frenchman at 'the Bay,' named Reaume, excessively ignorant and grasping, although otherwise tolerably good-natured. This man was appointed Justice of the Peace. Two men once appeared before him, the one as plaintiff, the other as defendant. The Justice listened patiently to the complaint of the one, and the defense of the other; then rising, with dignity, he pronounced his decision: 'You are both wrong. You, Bois-vert,' to the plaintiff, 'you bring me one load of hay; and you, Crely,' to the defendant, 'you bring me one load of wood; and now the matter is settled.' It does not appear that any exceptions were taken to this verdict."

L. C. D.