

for, the accumulation of wealth, until at this time he is considered very wealthy.

In speaking of the early settlers, and their marriage connections, I should perhaps explain a little. In the absence of religious instructions, and it becoming so common to see the Indians use so little ceremony about marriage, the idea of a verbal matrimonial contract became familiar to the early French settlers, and they generally believed that such a contract of marriage was valid without any other ceremony. Many of the women, married in this way, believed, in their simplicity and ignorance, that they were as lawfully the wives of the men they lived with, as though they had been married with all the ceremony and solemnity possible. A woman of Prairie du Chien, respectable in her class, told me that she was attending a ball in the place, and that a trader, who resided on the Lower Mississippi, had his canoe loaded to leave as soon as the ball was over, proposed to marry her; and as he was a trader and ranked above her, she was pleased with the offer, and as his canoe was in waiting, he would not delay for further ceremony. She stepped from the ball-room on board his canoe, and went with him down the Mississippi, and they lived together three or four years, and she had two children by him. She assured me that she then believed herself as much the wife of this man as if she had been married with all the ceremony of the most civilized communities, and was not convinced to the contrary, until he unfeelingly abandoned her and married another; and from her manner of relating it, I believed her sincere.

In 1816, at the time of my advent to Wisconsin, the Menomonees inhabited the country about Green Bay, and their women occasionally married Winnebagoes, but not often. The Menomonees are a quiet and peaceful race, well disposed, and have always, since their acquaintance, been friendly to the whites. Tomah, the acting chief of the nation, was highly spoken of by all the traders as a great and good man. It was related to me by some of the traders at that period, I believe it was Judge Lawe, that at