

white men, except occasionally a trader. But none of the Sioux have ever resided within the limits of our State, although they were at one time included within the Territory of Wisconsin, when what is now Iowa and Minnesota formed a part of that Territory. Of them I will endeavor to give some account.

And, firstly, of their marriages. When a young Indian desires to marry, he invites his relatives, who are near or in camp, to a feast, and informs them that he wishes a certain girl for his wife. If they are in favor of the match, they immediately collect goods and suitable articles for a present to the relations of the desired one. One gives a gun, another a blanket, and another a kettle or horse, as they may happen to possess at the time. When the collection is completed, some of the relatives carry the presents to the lodge of the father of the young woman; one of them expressing in song the object for which they are intended, and leave the things at the door and retire. If the father is favorably disposed to the match, he invites all his relatives that are near to a feast, and when assembled, if they conclude to give the girl in marriage to the young man, each takes of the articles such as he can return in kind; for instance, if one can return a gun, horse, kettle, blanket or other articles, he takes such an article; and presents in this way are made up by the relatives of the desired bride, generally of the same kind of articles they have received, and taken, together with herself, to the lodge of the young man with singing, &c. After which she returns again to the lodge of her father, where they usually reside, the son-in-law hunting for the father-in-law until about the time the oldest child can walk, after which he generally gets a lodge for himself. A small apartment is partitioned off in the lodge of the father-in-law for the young couple. The young man generally during the day is out hunting, and seldom visits the lodge of his bride until the others have gone to sleep, when he crawls into the lodge. There is no familiarity between the parents of the bride and their son-in-law. If he is ever in their presence, he appears ashamed, and seldom speaks to them. If he wants to communicate to them, it is done through