

others supposed he could, if need be, fight his way through their ranks at pleasure.

Notwithstanding the remoteness of the place from civilization, and the sparseness of the population, say three or four hundred, courts had been instituted under the laws of Michigan, which then extended its jurisdiction over this country. What is now Wisconsin was divided into Brown and Crawford counties, by a line running north and south through Portage, where Portage City now stands; and all that part of Crawford south of the Wisconsin, was set apart as Iowa county, Oct. 9, 1829. The courts for Brown county were held at Green Bay, those of Crawford, at Prairie du Chien, and those of Iowa, at Mineral Point. Judges, justices of the peace, sheriffs and constables were in being. Under these circumstances, Mr. Burnett had some practice as a lawyer.

As a specimen of the surprise and amusement this fact produced among his old friends in Kentucky, I give the following extract of a letter from G. W. Williams, Esq., dated Paris, Ky., Feb. 17th, 1831: "I am much gratified to learn, as I did by your letter, that you are well and in good spirits, and what is perhaps nearly as comfortable, able to make something approaching *respectability* by the practice of the law. Heavens! who would have thought a sustenance could be made at *Prairie du Chien* at law; whilst in the commercial and monied states, the most industrious and talented, scarcely receive more than *three* per cent. upon the capital invested, which upon an average may be estimated at about \$20 office rent, \$5 for wood in winter, and \$100 for books. I am equally well pleased to learn that you are better satisfied with the country and your location than you at first anticipated would be the case. By-the-by, how do you get along with your sublime talks and big speeches with the Indians? I presume by this time you scarcely stand in need of an interpreter, but can converse in their language with some degree of facility. I wish you would in your next give me a specimen of one of your talks."