

younger portion of the company would trip the light, fantastic toe, over some rough puncheon floor. Thus would be formed the most warm and enduring friendships—such as no ordinary circumstances could disturb.

Among the settlers, the utmost confidence was reposed in the honor and integrity of each other; consequently all business was done upon the *confidence* principle. Notes, receipts, mortgages, or bonds, were scarcely ever given in those days; and afterwards, when the Yankees, as we called them, came among us, and sought to introduce their system of accounts, written notes and obligations, we looked upon them with great suspicion and distrust, and regarded their mode of doing business as a great and unwarrantable innovation upon our established usages. We looked upon them as a selfish, small-dealing, and narrow-contracted people, and consequently all intercourse with them, was at first, as much avoided as possible. After a few years, however, these prejudices in some degree wore off, and a general good feeling prevailed. I must here remark, in justice to the Yankee or Eastern character, that I have found among them, as warm hearts, as firm, enduring friends, and formed as ardent attachments, as among any other people. Some of my most-devoted and highly esteemed friends are among this class.

I heard the first sermon preached in Sangamon county; it was in 1819, and by Rev. Rivers Cornmuck, of the Methodist denomination. The first funeral sermon was preached at my house, in consequence of the death of a daughter and son of mine. I was the first Justice of the Peace in Sangamon county, and had many an amusing scene in dispensing justice among the honest and illiterate members of the community, and in solemnizing the rites of matrimony between the loving swains and impatient damsels of the country; and occasionally between those who were quite stricken in years, for this feeling was by no means confined to the young.

In the year 1822, considerable excitement was created in relation to the lead mines near Galena, and a number of persons went