

understand their cost. The object of all the emigrants, was to obtain lands for an inheritance for their children. As for themselves, the trials and labors incident to a new country were often too much for them; some, unable to endure the conflict, returned to the East; while others came prepared to buffet all trials and hardships, however severe. Much conflicting interest was manifest between the settlers, from the first, in making their claims. Some were greedy in securing at least one section of 640 acres for themselves, and some as much for all their friends whom they expected to settle in the country. Before the lands were surveyed, this often brought confusion and disputes with reference to boundary lines, and still greater confusion followed when the Government surveys were made in the winter of 1835-36. These contentions often led to bitter quarrels, and even bloodshed. Dr. B. B. Cary, of Racine, probably carries to this day a ball thus received. Early meetings were called to devise measures to secure peaceable possession of each one's claim. It was found necessary to form a kind of protective union, and establish some rules that should be our laws for the security and protection of our claims. Accordingly a meeting was held at the store of Bullen & Co., at Pike River, on the 13th of February, 1836, when Austin Kellogg was chosen chairman, and Wm. C. Ethridge clerk, when a suitable preamble and resolutions were adopted, and delegates appointed to attend a similar and more general meeting at Racine. This Racine meeting was attended by delegates from the several settlements in then Milwaukee county, and resulted in the formation of the *Milwaukee Union*. Congress was petitioned to assist us by the enactment of suitable pre-emption laws. The proceedings of these two early meetings or conventions, are herewith appended. These proceedings I printed at the time—the former on a large slip or broadside, and the latter in a pamphlet of nine pages. I have but a single copy of each remaining—that of the Pike River meeting is a rejected proof, as all the good copies were taken away; I send both as specimens to the Historical Society for preservation. This printing I did on a rude press