

quired when war had been declared? He rather sheepishly replied, that it was a standing order of the post that no boat or vessel should be permitted to pass without reporting.

These incidents in the early history of our State are not alluded to for the purpose of injuring the feelings of any of the actors in them, if any are still living; but to show the privations and hardships experienced by the early settlers; and to exhibit in their true forms, the inefficiency of the protection afforded by the General Government, and the proneness of military men, when exercising the supreme authority, to become tyrannical and oppressive.

I have remarked that during the period of eight years prior to 1824, the country was principally subject to military rule. It was not, however, entirely so, as there was a species of civil authority exercised in parts of the country where there were white inhabitants, and which, in many respects, was quite unique and amusing. I will allude to one or two cases that occurred in that part of the State where I have long resided, and with which I have become acquainted. All who have any knowledge of the early settlement of the northern part of the State have heard of the venerable Judge Reaume, who resided for many years at Green Bay, and died near there over thirty years ago. A relic\* of this venerable functionary is preserved among the collections of your Society. Where the Judge came from, is not very well known, and whence he derived his authority is a matter likewise involved in uncertainty; but it is a well established fact, that he exercised the functions of a Judge or Justice for a long period. When he first assumed the robes of office, he probably received his authority from some commanding officer or governor. His judicial career commenced before the War of 1812, and probably continued until near the time of his decease. This exercise of authority seems to have been tacitly acquiesced in by all. It has never been as-

\*His scarlet coat or court dress, faced with white silk, and bedecked with spangled buttons, in which he appeared on all public occasions.