

West. At the session of 1823-24, Congress passed a law for organizing an additional judicial district in the then territory of Michigan, comprising the counties of Mackinaw, Brown and Crawford, and the Hon. James D. Doty was appointed judge, the duties of which office he continued to discharge until 1832. The establishment of regularly organized courts may be considered a new era in our history, for it was then for the first time, that the citizen regarded himself as really under the protecting arm of the law, and in the full enjoyment of his liberty and property. Yet it is a fact worthy of note, that this innovation on the primitive rights of the old settlers, was viewed by them with great jealousy. They looked upon it as a violation of their *Magna Charta*—a serious infringement on their long established customs; and they heartily wished the court, and (perhaps with better reason) the lawyers too, anywhere but amongst themselves.

The advance and improvement of the country was slow but sure. For a few years its history was monotonous, exhibiting but little of interest or importance—occasionally presenting an Indian murder, or rumors of wars or hostile designs. Thus it continued until about 1827, when the region of country bordering on the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers, known as the Lead Mines, began to attract attention. In a short time this whole district was over-run, and swarmed with enterprising western explorers. The occupation of the country by the whites, as might have been foreseen, led to the Indian wars that followed. At first the difficulties were confined to occasional out-breaks, and single acts of violence. But all who knew the Indian character, were well convinced that a general rising of the tribes would soon follow the forcible possession taken by the white adventurers. The title of the Indians to that part of the country had not yet been extinguished;* and the land was owned, or claimed by the Sauks,

*Perhaps it would be safer to say, that the Indians did not acknowledge it. At St. Louis, in 1804, five Indians representing themselves as the chiefs and head men of the United Sauks and Foxes, concluded a treaty with Gov. Wm. H. Harrison, ceding to the United States nearly the whole of the present State of Wisconsin, lying south of the Wisconsin River, and west of the Fox River; also a great portion of Northern Illinois, and