

Foxes, Pottawattamies, among the most numerous and unfriendly tribes of the North West. The General Government foresaw the consequences likely to ensue, but either from supineness, or perhaps owing to the small and inefficient military force of the country, no adequate measures were adopted to prevent an open rupture. The Black Hawk War of 1832 ensued, which spread alarm and consternation throughout the extended and sparsely populated settlements. The history of this war and its speedy termination, are events of too recent date to require more than a passing notice. With all its evils and calamities, this unhappy contest was not without its corresponding benefits and advantages. It brought prominently into notice large portions of our State hitherto unexplored, made known its natural resources, and proved the precursor to the rapid settlement of the country; and, moreover, called the attention of the Government to the North West, and led to the speedy extinguishment of the Indian title to the soil.

In short, from the year 1832, we may date the commencement of our prosperity, and from that period until 1836, when Wisconsin was organized as a Territory, her prosperity and improvement continued with a steady pace. The short space which elapsed between her Territorial organization and her admission as a member of the Confederacy—twelve years, was characterized by rapid and almost incredible changes and this not only in the increase of population but in the development of her many natural advan-

considerable portions of the States of Iowa and Missouri. The consideration for this large tract of country, embracing, it is said, more than fifty-one millions of acres, was exceedingly small—goods in hand to the amount of \$2,254.50, and a yearly annuity of \$1,000, of which \$600 was for the Sauks, and \$400 for the Foxes, to be paid in goods valued at first cost. This treaty was ratified and confirmed by a subsequent treaty, in 1816, when Govs. Clark and Edwards, and Col. Chouteau were the commissioners, and Black Hawk was one of the signers. But Black Hawk subsequently denied the validity of the treaty of 1804, when at least three of the five chiefs who signed it figured prominently in behalf of their tribes at several treaties held afterwards; and it should be added, that, Black Hawk alleged that he was ignorant of what he was doing when he signed the confirmatory treaty of 1816. We must say, that we believe Black Hawk to have been too shrewd and cautious to act ignorantly in a matter of so great importance, and particularly if, as he subsequently represented, his people had been over-reached by the whites, at the prior treaty of 1804; and we cannot believe, that men so honorable as the commissioners would have deceived Black Hawk and his people.—See *Indian Treaties*; Smith's *Wisconsin*, 1—227, 228, 408; Black Hawk's *Autobiography*; Drake's *Black Hawk*; Dawson's *Memoirs of Harrison*; Wis. Hist. Soc. Colls., 1—98. L. C. D.