

stitution of the town, was built in the spring of 1839, by Dr. Trippe, and in the fall of the same year the Whitewater Hotel was erected, by D. J. Powers,—though then but a small building—and a store was established by B. F. Bosworth. In the fall of 1840, a store was built by Philander Peck, and another by T. K. Le Barron. In 1842, what is now the body of the Exchange Hotel was put up. In 1843, Messrs. S. C. Hall and H. C. Leffingwell opened a store, under the firm of Hall, Leffingwell & Co. Those gentlemen were the first comers of those now doing business here, and are well known to the citizens of Whitewater. Mr. Hall is at present one of the most extensive merchants in the place.

From this time the village grew slowly into the proportions of a town. There was then no market west of Milwaukee, and a village could depend for its growth only upon the tardy filling up of the surrounding country, the patronage of teamsters carrying produce to, and freight from, Milwaukee, and the emigration passing through to that great undefined region, the West. Those were the palmy days of Milwaukee, when she gave prices to Wisconsin, as Rome once dictated laws to Europe. In those hard old times, many a farmer spent a week in carrying his wheat to, and returning from, "the town," and returned with perhaps five dollars, as the proceeds of his hard labor, in driving through mud hub deep, with about thirty bushels of wheat; and often with the utmost economy, selling wheat was a losing business for the grower. A bushel of wheat was then current among farmers as half a dollar, while in trade for goods at the store, it was frequently sold for a quarter of a dollar.

In the falls of 1849, '50 and '51, the wheat, which was the chief marketable crop, was almost entirely destroyed throughout the State, by rust. Universal depression of busi-