

which fell in the same time, was four feet six inches, in the winter of 1849-50. The greatest depth which fell at any one time, was twelve inches, which fell March 23d, 1855.

Prescott

Until within the past three years, very little was known of that portion of Wisconsin drained by the St. Croix river, and bordering the Mississippi north of Lake Pepin, except to those early pioneers, a portion of whom may be found trapping and hunting over all the inhabitable parts of America. Were we able to give the earliest visits of these men to our county, with something of their history, we would gladly preserve it as the commencing point of the white man in a section of Wisconsin, destined soon to stand in the first rank of wealth and prosperity. As before stated, little was known of the character of the country, except by those sent by Government or those belonging to the North-Western Fur Company, which time would date back to about 1820. As is well known to all conversant with the early history of the different Western States, they, instead of devoting themselves to the services of Government and their employers, made use of the power of office and employment by large companies, to monopolize the possession of such points as nature had determined as business emporiums for the country when the same should be settled. Such was our early history. Six or seven years of that early period were allowed to pass before they commenced their blighting work; owing, no doubt, to the fact, that the settled portion of the country was so far distant from them. In 1827, they made their first pitch for a town site for the Upper Mississippi country; then there was not a farmer in that territory, now Minnesota or North-Western Wisconsin. A company was organized at Fort Snelling in that year, composed of the leading officers, such as Mr. Prescott, Col. Plimpton, Capt. Scott, Capt. Brady, Col. Thompson, and Dr. Emerson, all of whom were in Government employ. Their