

been honored by her citizens, perhaps beyond my merit—I feel for the old settlers and their descendants, a regard little short of kindred tie—under such circumstances, would it not be strange and unnatural should I not feel partial to old Brown County, and alive to her best interests.

The history of states like that of individuals, may be divided into three stages; the former, in their Rise, their Progress, and their Decline—corresponding with the youth, manhood, and old age of the latter?

Wisconsin has but just entered upon the first period of her political existence. What she now is, is in a great degree owing to the “Old Pioneers.” They were among the first to explore and settle the country. Enduring for many years the hardships and privations of a frontier life—leaving behind them the associations of home, and severing the ties of family and kindred—they came to a wilderness, inhabited only by people, their natural foes. By energy and perseverance they surmounted all obstacles, and by their courage and firmness repelled the attacks of the savages. To them is owing the development of the country—the opening the way for the introduction of civilization, education, and the arts and sciences; and to them, also should be awarded the merit of having largely contributed, by their talents and labor, to the formation and organization of the former Territory, now State, of Wisconsin. Their conduct and action, as public servants, will bear the scrutiny of posterity—and they will lose nothing in comparison with legislators or rulers of the few past years. May those who succeed them, in either capacity, emulate the example, and prove as true to the interests of the State, as did the “Old Fogies,” in their time; and may the present and future Legislatures, by their acts, retrieve the character and credit of the country from the odium brought upon it by reckless and inconsiderate legislation.

The future progress and prosperity of our noble young State, mainly depend upon the character and conduct of her