

there, a case of this kind has existed, but the guilty party or parties have found no countenance among their brethren, but have rather been branded and driven from their ranks. And I am happy to state, in this connection, that our town has been comparatively free from that class of harpy lawyers, who are forever putting their clients up to acts of dishonesty of the kind of which I speak. On the contrary, it can be said in all truth, that the legal profession of this town has occupied, as a whole, during all its history, a most honorable, just and helpful position, as between debtor and creditor.

I say, then, that the merchants, as a class, have been characterized by prudence, industry and probity, the three pillars of mercantile success.

One other consideration, and I conclude this branch of my subject. No city can have business and growth without a population surrounding it. It is to the number and superiority of the population which lies behind us, that we are, after all, indebted for so much of our prosperity.

The wild land speculating mania of 1835, 1836, and 1837, did not reach Wisconsin, since its lands were not in market. The lands of the Milwaukee Land District were brought into market in February, 1839. But now a general collapse had overtaken all speculations throughout the country, and especially would nobody touch wild land on speculation. No more fortunate event ever occurred for Milwaukee. As a consequence of this forbearance of non-residents to buy the fine lands throughout the Milwaukee Land District, they were left for the *actual settler*, and he, owing to the straitness of the times, came with small means, and was obliged to put up with a comparatively small tract of land. And, since he could not have the beautiful piece of land adjoining him—covet it though he might ever so much, the best he could do was to get his next friend to purchase and settle upon it. And thus the whole region about Milwaukee became densely and permanently settled by an active body of farmers—the actual proprietors of the soil.