

cupied by the Vulcan Iron Works. The weather being cool, the merry friends kindled a blazing fire, and after partaking very freely of their coarse beverage, along in the evening, two stretched themselves out on the floor for the night, but Bass is supposed to have seated himself on a bench before the hearth, became drowsy, and, while nearly insensible, and helpless, to have pitched, head first, into the flames, and totally unable to make an effort to get up or call for aid, suffocated in the heat and smoke. At all events, nothing more was seen or heard of him until the next morning, when he was found dead by his startled associates, who had recovered from the effects of their excesses. His limbs and body were scorched, burnt and partly consumed. The sad accident, occurring as it did, immediately created intense excitement and deep regret, and threw the young community into sudden commotion. The shock was felt by all. Some were afraid that false and exaggerated reports would be circulated abroad, and there might be no end to the frightful stories told about it to travellers coming in from a distance. To prevent this blight on the fair prospects and good name of the settlement, Luther A. Cole, now a member of the Legislature, the same day walked to Aztalan to induce two neighbors—it seems strange now to speak of men living twelve miles away in the forest, as near neighbors—to come and help dispose of the case, so that no undeserved blame should be attached to any one in the town, as most, if not all, were entirely innocent of any intentional wrong, and had not the least agency in bringing about the terrible calamity, and, therefore, should not be held responsible, or made to suffer for it. A thorough and careful examination took place, and after all the facts had been fully ascertained, nothing remained but to give the unfortunate victim as decent a burial as circumstances would permit. There being not a single sawmill on the entire length of Rock River, boards of any description could not be procured, though there was plenty of timber towering up all around, and waving high in the air, out of which to make them. The next best