

Hon. Stevens T. Mason, of Detroit, he purchased of the General Government the tract of land on which the city is built, at a cost of about \$1,500. At the meeting of the Territorial Legislature at Belmont, La Fayette County, towards the close of 1836, an act was passed locating the Capital at Madison—or, properly speaking, at the point where Madison has since grown up; and John Catlin and Moses M. Strong staked out the centre of the village plat in February, 1837. Meanwhile Jas. D. Doty, A. A. Bird and John F. O'Neil, were appointed by the General Government, commissioners to construct the Capitol edifice. Eben Peck was sent on from Milwaukee with his family to erect a house, where the workmen on the Capitol, soon to follow, might board and lodge. He arrived on the 14th of April, 1837, and put up the log house so faithfully represented in the picture—the first house erected in Madison. It was located on block 107, on Butler street, near the Lake House; and since this view was taken, the old pioneer house has been demolished. It was not till the 10th of June following, that Col. A. A. Bird arrived with a party of thirty-six workmen, for the construction of the Capitol.

Before the arrival of Col. Bird's party, the celebrated English Geologist, G. W. Featherstonhaugh, visited Madison, of which he has given us some reminiscences in his *Canoe Voyage up the Minnay Sotor, with an account of the Lead and Copper Regions of Wisconsin*, published in London in 1847. His orthography of Minnesota—*Minnay Sotor*—is quaint and curious. In coming from St. Louis in this direction, the author heard much of *Ty-cho-be-rah* or the Four Lakes; and elaborately engraved plans of several cities in their vicinity were shown him. He was assured that they were flourishing finely—Madison in particular was represented as already quite a city. Let us now cite Mr. Featherstonhaugh's graphic description of Madison and its *first house*, which he gives as follows, under date May 30th, 1837—passing from Dodgeville to Col. Ebenezer Brigham's, at the Blue Mounds, to dinner:

“Pursuing our journey, at 1 P. M., we passed the military