

members constituting the convention, but two were younger than Mr. Larrabee. "In this body," says Tenney and Atwood's *Memorial Record of the Fathers of Wisconsin*, "he served upon the committee on general provisions, comprising preamble, boundaries and admission of the State, suffrage and elective franchise, internal improvements, taxation, finance and public debt, militia, eminent domain, bill of rights, etc., and throughout took a leading and prominent part in its deliberations." Though somewhat restrained from any appearance of over-activity in the proceedings, by the advice of his veteran and experienced political friend, Hon. Stoddard Judd, one of his associates from Dodge County; yet his bright talents prompted him to speak on several occasions, and otherwise leave his impress on the constitution then formed, and subsequently adopted by the people.

Among the restrictions of the fundamental law, Mr. Larrabee strongly advocated the provision against a system of State internal improvements, and against a State debt, save for the suppression of insurrection or for war purposes, or other extraordinary necessities; contended for the right of the people to determine the territorial limits of their respective counties, lest they should be made too small, and hence too expensive, simply to gratify the intrigues of politicians; he spoke upon the question of the Northwestern boundary of the State; but the subject of homestead exemption—the protection of the homes of the poor—commanded his special sympathies and earnest exertions. It was, so to speak, Mr. Larrabee's special hobby in the convention; and he had the satisfaction to see it triumphantly adopted, and become one of the fixed laws of the State. "In this convention," says Hon. S. U. Pinney, in the third volume of his *Wisconsin Reports*, "he took an active and prominent part, advocating and laboring zealously for the homestead exemption clause, which was embodied in the constitution."

On the adoption of the constitution, Mr. Larrabee was, in July, 1848, chosen circuit judge of his district—a very large one, comprising six counties—by a very decided majority, making a large gain on his party's vote, and again receiving the unanimous suffrage of his fellow-citizens of Horicon. He wrote his friend, the