

attained, under his management, a place in the front rank of the weekly press of the State. The Democratic party at this time was progressive, and soon after he commenced his editorial labors he became an able advocate of its principles, and gained a more than local reputation as a leader of prominence in his party.

His influence was such that he was appointed postmaster of Waukesha by President Pierce, and continued the publication of his paper there until 1857, when the excitement over the rapid settlement of the Upper Mississippi Valley attracting his attention, with a view of bettering his condition financially, he removed to Dunn County and settled at Pepin (now in Pepin County), and entered upon the practice of law, forming a partnership with Col. Ben. Allen, a man since prominent as a lawyer and soldier. Here he remained during the financial crash and consequent "hard times" of that and the following two years, and until 1860, when he was appointed by Governor Randall, Circuit Judge of the eighth judicial circuit, then comprising the counties of La Pointe, Burnett, Buffalo, Dallas, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, and Chippewa, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge S. S. N. Fuller, whose term he finished in a satisfactory manner.

Receiving an offer from Hon. Caleb Cushing of the position of resident agent for the St. Croix Falls Manufacturing and Improvement Company, he removed to St. Croix Falls in September, 1861, and immediately assumed its duties.

Meanwhile the great Rebellion had paralyzed the business interests of the country. The various political factions had taken position for or against the Union. Men of patriotism everywhere rushed to the Union standard. Notwithstanding Judge Barron had been one of the standard bearers as presidential elector on Breckenridge ticket during the canvass of 1860, he immediately joined the "war party," and gave his most cordial and hearty support to the administration of President Lincoln.

He was immediately tendered a commission as colonel of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers by Governor Randall, but owing to defective eye-sight and other causes which he could not overcome, he declined, but was active in the enlistment of men, and the enactment of measures for the defense of national honor.