

Langlade, and lived at Green Bay. This was in 1791; and the children of Mr. Grignon, both sons and daughters, were taught the simple elements. Their teacher was James Porlier, whose name has already been mentioned, and who must be regarded, as far as we can gain any information, as the first school-master in the State. He did not give his entire attention to this business, for he was engaged in what was considered a more important and dignified occupation, that of clerking in his employer's store. The son of an enterprising business man, Porlier had received a good education in the Seminary at Montreal, which was designed to prepare young men for the Catholic priesthood, and emigrated to Green Bay, the same year he taught. He was of medium size, light complexion, a little bald, very mild, and invariably pleasant to all. He became a most useful man, was highly esteemed, and filled during the forty-eight years he resided in the State, the offices of Captain of the Militia, County Commissioner, Chief Justice of Brown county, and Judge of Probate.

In 1824, Joseph Rolette, a merchant at Prairie Du Chien, engaged a man by the name of Curtis,\* a cashiered captain in the army, to take charge of a whisky distillery, which he thought of erecting; but the work on the building being delayed, and Mr. Curtis being therefore idle, Mr. Rolette kept him in the meantime employed as a teacher in his family,—a kind of business which, it is said, he was very well qualified to perform. In all probability other schools were formed earlier in some families at this place. A young lady, Miss Crawford, who was raised at Prairie Du Chien, obtained at home a good common education, and learned to speak English and French fluently. She assisted Mrs. J. H. Lockwood, in 1825, in teaching at her place the first Sunday-school in the State.

The descendants of some of the most intelligent French traders are now among our most respectable citizens; but a large majority of those living here before the advent of the

\* Daniel Curtis entered the army, from Michigan Territory, as an ensign, in January, 1812, and promoted to Second Lieutenant in December following, and to a First Lieutenant in April, 1814, Adjutant of his regiment the same year, Captain in 1820, and dismissed from the Service in January, 1823. He must have served creditably during the war of 1812-'15, to have merited his successive promotions.