

that beautiful plateau of table-land, upon which the twin villages of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City are located, where they had a fine village with comfortable houses. They were living here in 1766, when Carver visited the country; but must have left soon after, as in 1795, according to the authentic statement of Augustin Grignon, the village appeared to have been several years deserted; and there were then only a few remains of fire-places and posts to be seen.*

It seems probable, judging by the dim light to be derived from any authentic history and from tradition, that the Foxes and Sauks having become confederates, wrested from the Illinois their possessions, and incorporating the remnant which they spared of that numerous tribe, with their own, occupied the territory which had been the home of the Illinois. The principal seat of their power was the country about the mouth of Rock River, from whence in 1831, and more formidably and effectively in 1832, they made those forays upon the pioneer settlers of Illinois and Wisconsin, which resulted in what is generally known as the Black Hawk War.

For about eighty years immediately following the expulsion of the Fox and Sauk Indians, not a hostile conflict occurred between the white inhabitants of what is now Wisconsin and any Indian tribe. Besides the few missionaries who gave no offense to the Indians, and who were the apostles of the gospel of peace, there were no inhabitants who were not directly or remotely connected with the Indian trade, who for reasons already stated were suffered to pursue their vocation during this long period without interruption. Moreover, a large proportion of these traders were Frenchmen, many of whom had intermarried with the Indians of the various tribes, and their hybrid progeny exerted a powerful influence in creating a kindly feeling towards all French people.

But very different feelings pervaded the savage breast towards those who came to occupy the country for agricultural purposes; and, consequently, as they rightly believed, to impair its value

* Edward Tanner states, in his paper, in this volume, on "Wisconsin in 1818," that the Sauks, who then lived on the Mississippi, "emigrated from the Wisconsin about thirty-five years ago"—approximately fixing the period in 1783, and about a dozen years before Mr. Grignon visited their deserted village.