

* * * "Tis a goodly sight to see

What Heaven has done for this delicious land."

"This lovely and romantic spot is situated in the southwestern part of Wisconsin. It is very near the dividing line between Illinois and Wisconsin, and about twenty miles east from the Mississippi River. Galena, Illinois, the depot of the Upper Mississippi lead mines, and a place of great business and activity, is about fifteen miles in a direction a little south of west, from that part of the Grove where I write. The first settlement made here of white men was in 1826—the whole country around here was then in possession of Winnebago Indians. At that early period, the Indians had made discoveries of lead ore, and had made some progress in smelting it in a rude way. Col. Henry Gratiot, an enterprising frontiersman, and a brother of Gen. Gratiot, of the U. S. Engineer Corps, was the first settler, and hence the name of Gratiot's Grove. In all my travels in the West, I have not seen a section of country combining so many advantages with so much mineral and agricultural wealth, and so well watered and timbered, as the country around Gratiot's Grove. Nature never spread out a fairer and nobler field for the enterprising genius of man. The great natural beauty of the country, with its shady groves, its high rolling prairies, and its rippling streams; the fertility of the soil, the richness of the mines and the salubrity of the climate, cannot be surpassed."

To us who live in these "piping times of peace," strangers to internecine commotion, and undisturbed by war, it is hardly possible to realize that little more than half a century ago, in what is now your beautiful and peaceful county of Lafayette, women and children were fleeing from the tomahawk and the scalping-knife. It is well for us in our busy and active lives to pause in the presence of such a history, and pay a respectful tribute to the memory of those of your early settlers who, amid so many dangers and privations, helped to lay the foundations of your noble State.

There never was a white man in his time, or any other time, that had so much influence over the Indians of the