

young men wished to join the Shawanoe leader, they were at liberty to do so. His counsel for a period prevailed; but at length the intrigues and influences of Col. Robert Dickson, and other British traders, inveigled them into the War of 1812-15 against the Americans.

Passing over the early settlements at La Pointe, Prairie du Chien and Milwaukee, the Black Hawk War, our twelve years of Territorial pupilage, and thirty-six of full Statehood, we come down to the year 1885, with a population of a million and a half within our borders, ranking far above the average of the states of the Union in point of wealth, education and importance—made up of energetic and intelligent citizens from nearly all states and all regions—presenting a rich and prosperous country, all dotted over with thousands of beautiful churches, public and normal schools, colleges and seminaries of learning, with our magnificent State University, and our almost unequalled public libraries—all proclaiming a splendid triumph over the early savage state, and the advent of a permanent and higher civilization.