

now Prairie du Chien, where Carver found about three hundred families, in well-built houses, pleasantly situated on very rich soil; that the town, he says, was "the great mart" for Indian trade—where the traders had their quarters and goods, with which to carry on with the adjacent tribes, the gainful commerce in which they were engaged. This would fix the time of the settlement of the Fox Indians at Prairie du Chien, about 1736, or nineteen years before the old French fort is said to have been established there.

Mr. Butterfield lays much stress on the fact, that because Carver does not mention having seen a fort at Prairie du Chien when there in 1766, there could, therefore, have been nothing of the kind. There were large and interesting prehistoric works in all that region to which Mr. Butterfield abundantly testifies; so it would hardly do to boldly and defiantly ignore these numerous remains, simply because Carver failed to notice them, though he mentions in the Lake Pepin region, with much apparent interest, similar prehistoric structures of "great antiquity," but without any "visible ditch."

In Carver's time, the old fort at Prairie du Chien had probably gone into both disuse and decay; and the palisades even may have disappeared; but the probabilities are that the traders then occupied some of the remaining tenements, or had, at least, erected "a log building" there, for trading and storage purposes. Carver states, that Prairie du Chien was a great trading mart for an extensive region; but he does not go into details, and note the tenements used by the traders in carrying on their business operations. And yet they must have had at least one building, if not more, for the protection and display of their goods, and storage of their furs and peltries. Such a trading point would very naturally form around it the nucleus of a settlement of voyageurs and hangers-on generally, with their Indian wives and progeny. Such was the natural result at Old Mackinaw, Vincennes, Kaskaskia, Green Bay, and other noted trading-posts.

Carver does not, in his *Travels*, mention the interesting fact, that there was, at that day, a Lower Town of Prairie du Chien; which, however, he notes on his map accompany-