

Mr. Butterfield speaks somewhat triumphantly of the fact, that some fourteen months after Col. Brisbois had made his statement to me, he signed the certificate endorsing the *History of Crawford County*, in which the old fort is pronounced "a myth," and simply the work of the mound-builders. Many petitions are signed without examination; and very likely Col. Brisbois, in his feeble old age, and with his confiding character, signed the certificate without knowing what was stated in the work as to the assertion and reasonings that it was merely the production of the mound-builders. It is idle to say that Col. Brisbois ever cherished or expressed such an opinion.

It is not enough that Mr. Butterfield should call in question my representation of Col. Brisbois' settled belief, that the old fort at Prairie du Chien was of French origin; but he must also disprove the statements corroborating mine, of Charles Ménard, Hon. O. B. Thomas, Gen. John Lawler, Samuel A. Clark, John H. Folsom, and Hon. Horace Beach, all old residents of Prairie du Chien, and men of unimpeachable reputation.

**Charles Ménard's statement:**—States, through John H. Folsom, that he was born at Prairie du Chien, and has lived all his life there and in that vicinity, and is now over eighty years old. Knew Mrs. Cardinal as far back as he can remember, who was then an old woman. I remember hearing her say to my mother, that a party from Mackinaw carried off a portion of the traders' furs, deposited in the storehouse at the old fort, and burning what they could not carry away; and Mrs. Cardinal said, that she was then living at Prairie du Chien, and witnessed this affair.

I do not remember anything definite of Mrs. Cardinal speaking of the length of time she had been residing at Prairie du Chien before this fur affair, nor whether there were other settlers there when she came. She spoke, I think, of Capt. Langlade, but the particulars have escaped me.

Mrs. Cardinal, and other old settlers, always claimed that the old fort was built by French traders, and not by the mound-builders; and I have heard Col. Brisbois make the