

Col. S. H. Long belonged to the United States engineer corps, had been an assistant professor at West Point, and was an accomplished officer of the army. He seems to have had an observant eye for all remarkable prehistoric works wherever he went, and freely made his observations on them; and while he described those "on the highlands," without ditches, as he states, he surely would not have overlooked the well known structure, only a mile from Upper Prairie du Chien, with its ditches outside of its ramparts, had he regarded it as the work of the mound-builders.

This visit of Col. Long and party to Prairie du Chien was in 1823. Schoolcraft, the distinguished antiquary and Indian historian, visited there three years before; and he, too, makes no reference in his *Narrative Journal*, to this old fort, as he surely would have done, had he deemed it the remains of the prehistoric age. Richard C. Taylor, who personally inspected our mounds, and gave his views of them in Silliman's *Journal of Science*, in 1838; and Stephen Taylor, then a Wisconsin resident, gave the results of his observations in the same *Journal*, in 1843, and neither make any reference to this ancient fort, which they would have done had they regarded it as a work of the mound-builders. Rev. Dr. Alfred Brunson, who long resided at Prairie du Chien, read a paper before our Society in 1850, on the "Ancient Mounds or Tumuli in Crawford County," and makes no reference whatever to this old fort as among the notable remains of the prehistoric age; but expressly declares elsewhere, that it was "a fort or trading-post" of the early white adventurers.¹ And finally, that keen antiquarian observer, Dr. I. A. Lapham, visiting Prairie du Chien in 1852, collecting materials for his great work on *Wisconsin Antiquities*, published by the Smithsonian Institute, makes not the slightest reference to this ancient fortress as coming within the scope of his collections. The non-belief of such an antiquary as Dr. Brunson, so long a resident of Prairie du Chien, and the silence of the eminent Dr. Lapham, sufficiently attest their views of the old fort—that whoever else constructed it, it was surely not the work of the mound-builder race.

¹ *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, pp. 178, 184; iv, p. 250.