

saw a horse that had been stolen by Indians two weeks before, from Major Deviese at his Diggings in Exeter. On his way to the place where he then lived, which was near Beloit, he gave the Major such information as enabled him to recover his horse. He had come from Fort Winnebago to inform the Indians of a council to be held at that Fort on the twelfth of August.

In 1836 Armel was still a resident on the site of Madison, and joined John de la Ronde who had come from Portage to buy deer skins, and seven other Frenchmen in celebrating the fourth of July.¹ Independence day, then, was here first commemorated by eight foreigners. The next year Armel was living on the east shore of First Lake.

The written story of Armel as established within the limits of Madison, we owe to Dr. Chapman.² He seems to have derived it from James Halpin, one of the soldiers who arrested the deserters, and who was years afterwards an employé in the capitol.

The soldiers had run away from the fort in order to buy rum, and, as their post was forty miles distant, could hardly have known about Armel's saloon, had it not been an establishment of some permanence. Another fact points the same way. Five hundred Indians had resorted to the same point with the thirsty soldiers, and that for the same purpose.

In some cities the first thing built has been a temple, or altar, or palace, or hospital, or fort; but our first building was a grog-shop—a humiliating confession—albeit a thousand places must make the same. One is reminded of Darwinians tracing man up, or down, to the monkey.

An American cent of 1798, and several Spanish silver coins, picked up in 1880 in Sorenson's garden, may have been lost by the intoxicated soldiers, and possibly mark the very spot where Armel had fixed his market with the aborigines.³

¹ *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii., p. 360.

² *Ibid.*, iv., p. 347.

³ *Madison State Journal*, April 26, 1880.