

It is noteworthy that our earliest knowledge of the Madisonian locality is connected with a military establishment. Capt. Low and the privates who there seized the runaways, came from a United States post.

The relation of the army to the progress of settlement has not been appreciated. In 1883, when the Northern Pacific was opened, army officers in the wide West bitterly complained to me that everybody was extolled to the skies except the military.

"Yet," said Gen. Morrow, chief marshal at Portland, "the army downward from Capts. Lewis and Clark, in 1804, explored and conquered the whole country from the Alleghanies to the Pacific. The army has surveyed routes, constructed military roads, protected railroad engineers and workmen, given them medicines, surgeons, refuge in forts; in every way it has been an entering wedge—sword and shield to civilians. Its emblem is St. George slaying the dragon."

A similar boast might be made by military men regarding the founding of Wisconsin. Government forts heralded its birth, and cradled its infancy. In 1816, forts were established at Chicago and Prairie du Chien, the next year at Green Bay, in 1819 at Rock Island, in 1822 near St. Paul, and in 1828, at the portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Thus strongholds and soldiers, north, south, east and west, were pillars of cloud by day and of fire by night, to guide, cheer, and save pioneers into the *terra incognita* of Wisconsin.

The frontier services of the army have been undervalued; but the fault may lie with frontier officers. Had half those gentlemen been as careful to write out their experiences as Lewis and Clark were, even when drenched with rain, or when ink was freezing, the world would have known by heart the merits of the military. The pen is mightier than the sword.

Armel was a fur-trader. What but furs could the Indians bring him which he could send to the whisky market, and obtain the supplies he most needed for sale? But the furs which Armel sought must always have abounded in Madisonian regions; and one Frenchman, Jean Nicolet, had pene-