

and places like it, where lead is a subordinate element in the ore. Mines of a metal so important, and those so nearly unique, were naturally a strong attraction.

This industry took a swift expansion as soon as steamers had free course on the Upper Mississippi. It was in 1824, that the first steam-paddles reached Prairie du Chien; and in the fifth year thereafter, 1829, the lead harvest at Galena, where seven years before only one house was standing, amounted to twelve million pounds. The diggings of McNutt, afterwards called Kemp and Collins, and those of Brigham—both in or near Dane County—had been started in 1828, the very next year after the capture of Red Bird had made prospectors safe there.

Miners need food and shelter. Those from southern Illinois went home to winter; those from the east could not, but dodged the cold in such dug-outs as they could hurry up. The eastern men were hence nicknamed *Badgers*, as if burrowing in similar holes with these animals. This jocose appellation became the badge of all the Wisconsin tribe, and it will remain indelible forever.¹ Farmers and lumbermen soon sprang up. Natives became jealous and hostile.² An irrepressible conflict ensued. The result was the survival of the fittest. Lead, lurking in the mine, killed the Indians as inevitably as it ever did when moulded into rifle bullets.

¹ Regarding the sobriquet, *Badger*, there is a ludicrous etymological blunder in Meyer's *German Hand-Book*, though it is in the main a most trustworthy gazetteer. Meyer, aware that the badger hoards grain, and mentioning that that animal's Latin name is *Fruentarius*, that is, the corn commissary, says that Wisconsin, being fertile in corn, is called the Badger State, because farmers there lay up corn after the manner of the badgers. Had Meyer moved among Wisconsin pioneers, he would have heard them styled Badgers before they had begun to raise corn. There is a similar anachronism in saying, as many do, that Dane County was so named because the Scandinavian element is there so large. The truth is, that county was called Dane before one single Dane had made his home upon its acres.

² William Deviese, while prospecting or mining near the south line of Dane County, in 1829 and onward, had six or seven horses stolen from him by Indians, and also many mining tools. Yet he did not think that the natives had any more dislike to him than to others of his class.