

was passed which settled the Territorial, and hence the State, capital, on its present site; or, in the words of the act, which was carried by a majority of fifteen to eleven, "the seat of government was located and established in the township of Madison," on the corners of four specified sections.

It is in this legislative act that the name *Madison*, so far as I know, appears for the first time. That name was no doubt picked out by Doty, and inscribed on the paper plan of that city of the future with which he had captivated and captured the ruling powers of the region—a Territory which at that time showed a population of 11,683.¹

Had two of the legislative majority cast their ballots otherwise, the vote would have stood thirteen to thirteen. It would seem then, that Doty was economical after all, and tampered with only one or two more voters than were needful for carrying his point. It was remarked that scarcely one of the bribed members ever made much money by selling either himself or the Doty lots—a fact which may be construed as a Providential rebuke of official corruption.

The first visitor known to me at the spot which had thus been constituted the local habitation of Territorial government, was Moses M. Strong. His first arrival at the site where Madison was to stand, I do not discover on record in any book, but I relate the story as it came to me from his own lips.

Soon after New Year's in 1837, Mr. Strong was returning from Milwaukee to Mineral Point. The direct route lay south of the Four Lakes; but he with two friends turned aside with a view to inspect the spot which had just been fixed upon as the Wisconsin head-center. Having lodged and eaten muskrat and squaw-bread at a French trader's on First Lake, they pushed on north, crossed Third Lake on the ice, tied their horses, and sought for a section post. As they had brought with them, if not a copy of the surveyor's field-notes, at least a sectional map, they were not long in

¹ It does not appear that Gov. Doty ever met President Madison; but he knew his widow very well, and spoke of her, Madam Dolly, with so much love and admiration that he may be thought to have given Madison its name through a desire to do her honor.