

fighting, no wrangling. They all agreed and were desirous of helping one another and sustaining one another in whatever they had on hand to do. If one had a barrel of flour or a little pork, he most cheerfully loaned a portion of it to his neighbor, and thus some families were enabled to subsist, that otherwise would certainly have gone hungry.

It hardly seems possible in this day of plenty to realize the condition of things which then existed. There was a period when the settlers in the vicinity of Lake Mills and Aztalan really suffered from hunger; they were apprehensive that they and their families might starve to death. I remember a meeting held one Sunday, in a log house at Aztalan occupied by Captain Brayton,¹ where the settlers came together to consider this difficult problem which had become to them a serious one: that is, what they were to do for something to eat. At this meeting, the oxen in the settlement, which were about the only beasts of burden, were counted up, and an estimate made as to how long the band of settlers could subsist upon them, in case they should be reduced to that extremity. The question was most carefully and prayerfully considered by the men and women who were present at this meeting. I have seen my father with his head bowed low upon his hands, in deep thought and meditation, and when my mother attempted to arouse him by the inquiry, "Joseph, what is the matter?" he would lift his head and say, "Olive, I know not where we are to get provisions to live upon much longer."

I remember one instance when we were entirely out of provisions of every kind, and my father started in the afternoon for Captain Brayton's, at Aztalan, to see if he could

¹ Thomas Brayton, who, with Timothy Johnson, before mentioned, visited Aztalan, October 31, 1836,—the first white men to seek a site for settlement there. Brayton opened a public house for land-hunters and travelers, his family arriving at Aztalan, July 1, 1837. His uncle William, and brothers Jeremiah and Alfred A., soon joined him. In the spring of 1838, Alfred's daughter, Azaline, was born, and is claimed to have been the first white girl born in that vicinity. Jeremiah lived on the banks of Crawfish river, two miles below Aztalan settlement; his daughter, Louisa M., was the pioneer school-teacher of Madison (see Thwaites's *Hist. Sketch of Public Schools of Madison, Wis.*, p. 67). Alfred A. opened the first store in Aztalan, in 1841.—ED.