

For several years after the first settlements, all that heads of families thought of was to make provision for the support of their families. The idea of getting rich hardly entered their minds; and I never knew of any old pioneer who ever became very rich. It is a fact, so far as I have observed, that the later crop of pioneers reap the golden harvest. The first ones sow and the ones that come later reap.

It is greatly to be regretted that so little interest is maintained in the old pioneers by the general public. It seems to me as though they are looked upon as a set of old fogies, whose day and generation have passed away, while they are of no further use to mankind. They are not revered as they should be, by those who have come after them. It is true that there is very little respect shown for old things—old methods. The world has gone forward with such a mighty rush since the first settlement of this country; such wonderful changes have taken place; such great progress has been made in almost everything, that perhaps it is natural that the present generation should look with more or less contempt upon everything that is old, even including old pioneers.

At that time, all told, there were only a few thousand settlers within the limits of Wisconsin Territory, and they very much scattered, with very poor means of communication.¹ When we came to this country the screech of the locomotive was unknown here. The telegraph had not been invented; and many other kindred things, which have been brought to light for the benefit of mankind, were sleeping in the brains of their inventors at that period. Then, but few organized communities were to be found within the borders of what is now Wisconsin. Now, over a thousand towns exercise, according to a well-ordered system, the functions of local government. Then, only a few settlers could band together for defense against Indian depredations. To-day, Wisconsin

¹The population of the Territory as shown by the census taken in May, 1838, was 18,139; Jefferson county contained but 468 of this number. In 1836, the Territory contained but 11,683 souls.—(*Wis. Blue Book*, 1887, p. 316.)—ED.