

cation of the first rapids was accepted by the topographical bureau; and thus Wisconsin gained, by the high water which chanced to prevail at the Fond du Lac that October day, thirty-six years ago, a ribbon of dense pine forest forty-two miles long by about half a mile broad.

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#### THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY.

Article V. of the ordinance of 1787, after providing for the eventual erection of three states out of the Northwest Territory, further specified: "That if congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said Territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend of Lake Michigan."

Thus the southern boundaries of Michigan and Wisconsin, the fourth and fifth states that were to be, were established by the ordinance on this line,— $41^{\circ} 37' 07.9''$ , according to Talcott's survey. This compact was to "forever remain unalterable except by common consent." We have shown how Michigan was deprived of her birthright, though for a compensation and after an enforced consent. It remains to be seen how Wisconsin lost a strip of her southern border ten times as wide, without compensation and without consent of the people settled within the limits assigned by the ordinance of 1787, and confirmed by the act of 1805, to the fifth northwestern state.

In 1818 Illinois, the third state, applied for entry to the Union. The original bill for the purpose, as introduced by Nathaniel Pope, the delegate from Illinois, provided for the northern boundary prescribed by the ordinance. But, while his measure was still pending, he appears to have suddenly bethought himself of the advantages of giving to his state a share of the lake coast, and proposed an amendment making the latitude of  $42^{\circ} 30'$  its northern limits. This was a bold move, for the additional strip of territory sought to be thus obtained for Illinois was 61 miles, 19 chains and 13