

But, as we have already seen, this pugnacious address to congress met with no response from that body, and nothing more was officially heard of Wisconsin's claim to the fourteen northern counties of Illinois until the enabling act of 1846, which confirmed the line of $42^{\circ} 30'$. In the first state constitutional convention which met in October, at Madison, there was a strong attempt to secure the introduction of a clause in the constitution referring all boundary disputes to the supreme court of the United States — Wisconsin to be meanwhile admitted with indefinite boundaries. But this failed — owing, in part, it is said, to the jealousy entertained by Wisconsin politicians of those in northern Illinois, whom they did not care to meet in competition for office — and the constitution-makers accepted the southern boundary that congress had established. In the second constitutional convention, the same result was harmoniously attained. And Wisconsin became a state, in 1848, stripped by the youthful greed of her southern neighbor and political manœuvring in congress, of 8,500 square miles of the richest and most populous territory in the entire Northwest.¹

¹Since the above article was written I have been in correspondence with Prof. John E. Davies of the United States coast and geodetic survey, who has spent much time in triangulation work in Wisconsin. In answer to a question as to whether the existing boundary posts between Illinois and Wisconsin are correctly located, Professor Davies writes: "The line as it is, does not represent the parallel of $42^{\circ} 30'$, as the constitution of each state prescribes. It zigzags to and fro, having been made by a surveyor's compass, apparently in the hands of Mr. Lucius Lyon, United States commissioner. The line should go further south than it now is — about three-fourths of a mile in the western part of Wisconsin, and further north in and east of Beloit."