

from the statutes of Michigan.¹ January 17, 1838, the resolution reported by this committee was passed by both houses, was approved by the governor on the nineteenth, and is the one quoted from above.

The necessity for this publication was, the great difficulty in ascertaining what were the laws of Wisconsin at that time. Those of Michigan Territory, as they stood July 3, 1836, had been continued in force in Wisconsin, by the organic act, and were still the large body of the law. They could only be found in the *Revised Statutes* of Michigan of 1833, and the session-laws of 1834, 1834-35, and 1835. Very few of these books were to be found on the west side of Lake Michigan — how few, may be inferred from a sentence in the letter from Judge Mason quoted below, and from the resolution of the council adopted in December, 1838,² that a messenger go from Madison to Green Bay, “to procure for the use of the legislature such numbers as may be had of copies” of these laws, for which his expenses were allowed at fifty dollars.³ Not only the people, but the lawyers, judges, and legislators, were unable to obtain copies of the laws by which they were to govern, or to be governed.

A resolution approved January 16, 1838, had given the printing of the laws of the 1837-38 session to James Clarke & Co., of Burlington, “the same to be ready for distribution on or before the fifteenth day of May next;” and another resolution, of the nineteenth, required the printer to reprint the laws of the first session (1836), “and attach the same to the laws” of the present session.⁴ This volume, in three parts — 1st, laws of 1836 reprinted; 2nd, laws of 1837-38; and 3rd, the selected Michigan acts — was the one I was hunting for, but could not find. I found the *Acts* of 1837-38, which I have been citing, but it bears the imprint of James G. Edwards, and has with it the acts of the next session (June 1838), instead of the two reprints, and is quite a different book.

¹ *Council Jour., Wis. Terr. Legis.*, 1837-38, p. 95; and *House Jour.*, p. 233.

² *Council Jour.*, 1838, p. 39.

³ *Local Acts*, 1838-39, p. 21. The messenger was Charles P. Green.

⁴ *Acts*, 1837-38, pp. 326, 327; reprint thereof (1867), pp. 524, 526.