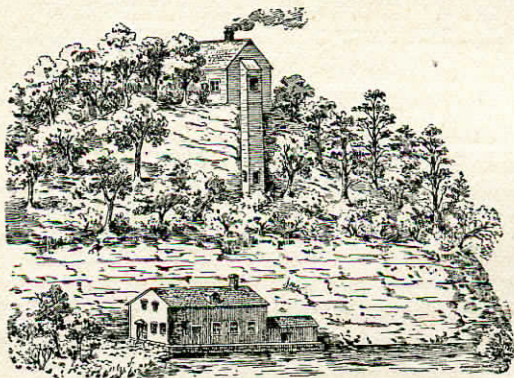


party arrived at Green Bay on the steamer "Michigan." They were carried up the Fox river on flat-boats, pushed by Menomonee Indians, and arrived at the Portage in May. After building a house for the accommodation of his family and the men, the work on the canal was begun. They succeeded in excavating a channel deep enough to float a canoe, and then, because of high water, were obliged to cease operations. Webb, hearing of their arrival, went overland from Helena to visit their camp and persuaded Wilson to return on horseback with him to Helena. After his wife had almost despaired of seeing him again, he returned to the portage, and transferred the



ORIGINAL SHOT-TOWER BUILDINGS.

(Facsimile of sketch by John Wilson, made July, 1836.)

entire party to the shot-tower. At Helena, the men were employed for nearly a year in getting out stone, cutting logs, sawing lumber, and erecting buildings. Among these buildings were a store, cooper shop, blacksmith shop, a log barracks for the men, and a warehouse,—the last named, a large five-story structure, the first two stories being of stone. Not a little of the lumber was obtained from the pines, just across the river from the tower.

Early in the summer of 1836 the men were discharged¹

¹ Most of the men returned to New York. Among those remaining were Archie Dempster, David Coffin, and Charley Morgan.