

the location of the State capital,¹ shows its importance and the brilliant future confidently predicted for it.

In the summer of 1837 the shot-tower was visited by William R. Smith, and his description confirms the statement just given, of the rapid growth of the village.² But

oldest settler in the county, was the first mail-carrier through the north part of the county."—*Iowa Co. Hist.*, p. 845.

¹ See *Council Jour., Wis. Terr. Legis.*, 1836, p. 45. On Wednesday, Nov. 23, 1836, Vineyard, of Iowa County, moved to strike out the word "Madison" and insert "Helena" as the capital of the Territory. The vote stood yeas 6, nays 7. The vote has less significance when we bear in mind that the same vote successively rejected the following long list of places for the proposed capital: Fond du Lac, Dubuque, Portage, Milwaukee, Racine, Belmont, Mineral Point, Platteville, Astor, Cassville, Belleview, Wisconsinapolis, Peru, and Wisconsin City.

² W. R. Smith, *Observations on the Wisconsin Territory* (Phila., 1838), p. 77: "Some small enclosed fields near the Wisconsin River give good promise of plentiful crops of corn and potatoes. Not far from the bank of the river is erected a house for a store, near which I observed some Indian graves lately made. Immediately on the bank a large log building was put up by the United States agent superintending the lead mines, and was intended as an office and store house for the deposit of the government lead, received from the miners and smelters. * * * The building is going to decay. * * * From this point the road bends abruptly to the east, along the bank of the river, and a ride of two miles or thereabouts, through the site of the town of Helena, brings you to the shot tower and buildings belonging to the Wisconsin Shot Company. Here is a large lumber yard, the lumber being chiefly pine, and brought down the Wisconsin river. Several mechanics' shops are erected and workmen employed. The shot company have a very large assortment of goods and merchandise in their store which is here kept, and on the river bank there is now being built a store house of about fifty by seventy feet, the basement story of stone from the river beach to the top of the bank, and the upper story of frame.

"The shot tower is worthy of a description. It is built on the summit of a rocky hill on the bank of Pipe creek, and a gentle descent southward and westward, by which wagons may reach the summit. One hundred feet from the base of the rock there is a ledge or landing place; on this ledge rises the shot tower, of frame, eighty feet to the roof; of course the depth from the top of the tower to the base of the rock is one hundred and eighty feet; a well or shaft has been sunk through the rock, which is of sandstone, one hundred feet, and a lateral drift or entrance, ninety feet in length, seven feet high and six feet wide has been