

these games are over, dancing commences, and continues to a late hour in the night.

The Belgian settlers are great lovers of music; nearly every settlement has a brass and string band; they love to sing songs, especially the national hymn of Belgium, "*La Brabançonne*," the national anthem of France, "*La Marseillaise*," "*Partant pour la Syrie*," and other patriotic songs. Their favorite drink is beer, and Philip Hannon, one of the first settlers, built a brewery at which he made a peculiar kind of beer; when a Belgian had drunk sixty or seventy glasses of that beverage, he would begin to feel good, and then he would sing a certain song, beginning "*Nous avons planté des Canadas avec Marie Doudouye*," &c. The music of this is not very stirring, nor the words very patriotic—somewhat resembling the dying song of a Chippewa Indian; but when sung, it always indicated that the kegs were empty, and the feast nearly over.

The Belgians were beginning to forget the hardships through which they had passed during the first few years of their settlement; they were having good crops, and fair prices for their surplus products and their shingles. Many were buying horses and discarding the oxen, which were too slow for them. They were having schools and churches, and they were exercising the right of suffrage. They were growing confident of the future; there was a good deal of talk about establishing factories in their midst, and genuine prosperity seemed about to reward them. But here again they were doomed to disappointment. Instead of new factories everywhere, instead of the good times they were anticipating, the firing upon Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861, announced to them, as well as to all patriots, that this was not the beginning of good times, but the beginning of a long and cruel civil war. The call for troops by President Lincoln was a call on the Belgian settlers as well as on citizens of other nationalities. They had exercised their right of suffrage; they were, therefore, American citizens; and, be it said to their credit, they responded