

of our stacks of hay. Thus, in the beginning of a winter, whose severity we had before experienced, we found ourselves without the means to properly care for our stock, having only saved that portion that was stored in our barn and sheds.

I was thoroughly disheartened and disgusted with farming, and was convinced that nature had never intended me for an agriculturist. I made up my mind that I must seek some other occupation better suited to my tastes and capabilities. I wrote to friends in St. Louis and New Orleans; and when spring finally came, I was ready for another exploring expedition. I went to Galena, and some time in April, 1836, descended the river to St. Louis and from there to New Orleans.

I was young and full of hope. My health had greatly improved. Constant exercise in the pure air, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding had made me comparatively strong. I had also improved in the English language, by study and reading, so I could make my way. All this time I had not heard one word of German spoken, and had become well acquainted with the customs and habits of Western people. Of politics I was yet ignorant. Not being of age I could not vote, so that I was not troubled by candidates.

The first allusion made to political parties, in our settlement, was in the fall of 1835, when William S. Hamilton announced himself as a candidate for the legislative council, which was called to meet at Green Bay on January 1, 1836. He called himself a Whig; but was not elected as a representative Whig, but solely on his own popularity, just as Gen. George W. Jones,¹ who was an ardent Jacksonian Democrat, was elected by men of all political creeds as delegate to congress from Michigan Territory, of which, at that time, Wisconsin formed a part. Political parties had not as yet gained such power in the Northwest as to determine

¹ For a biographical sketch of George Wallace Jones, see *Wis. Hist. Soc. Proc.* for 1896, p. 35.—ED.