

the result of an election, but the individual popularity of a candidate, his fitness and capability, were the factors in the contest which secured the victory.

During my temporary absence important changes took place in Wisconsin, as well as in my mother's family. The territory was detached from Michigan and erected into the territory of Wisconsin, which embraced within its limits the present states of Iowa and Minnesota. Henry Dodge, who had, as early as 1826, come to the lead mines, and was engaged in smelting some five miles from Mineral Point, was appointed by President Jackson governor of the new territory, and took the oath of office on the fourth of July, 1836, at Mineral Point, which became at once the chief city of the territory. My mother's family, all except my oldest brother Frederick and my uncle, abandoned the farm and moved to Mineral Point, where my sisters soon got married, and my brothers engaged in various occupations.

I resolved to return to Wisconsin. I bought a stock of groceries at New Orleans, shipped them up to St. Louis, thence to Galena, and had them hauled by team forty miles to Mineral Point; but the venture did not prove a success. The expenses were so great that there was no profit left; yet I was compelled to increase my stock to meet the wants of the country, and continued in the mercantile business till I was satisfied that the occupation of a merchant was either not suited to my taste, or I was not suited to the occupation. I sold out and opened a drug store, which was a pursuit more in accord with my earlier training, offering a field for some mental occupation and study. I now concluded to build my own store and dwelling.

During my absence in the south, the smelters, miners, and merchants of Mineral Point, Dodgeville, Lancaster, Platteville, and other villages throughout Iowa and Grant counties, became dissatisfied with the treatment they received at the hands of the commission merchants and business men of Galena, to which place they were compelled to cart the product of the mines and furnaces, for shipment down the river. They complained of extortionate charges,