

us a welcome. There was, however, not a living being to be seen or heard; neither a dog nor a cat, nor a fox or rat — I think not even a bird gave life to the desolation. The quiet of a churchyard reigned; the houses, all painted white, seemed to loom up as monuments of departed greatness. A few hundred yards farther up, hid in the timber, stood a solitary stone building, outside the corporation limits; it had been occupied by an earlier settler. Some two years ago [about 1887], while ascending the river from St. Louis, I saw that same stone house standing like a sentinel over the spot where fifty years ago a great rival city was to be built, to break down the monopoly of Galena. The attempt was a sad failure; but the natural development of the country has long since accomplished the result sought. The running of the Illinois Central railroad through Galena to Dubuque so severely injured the business interests of the former city that its most enterprising citizens abandoned the place and sought new fields for their activity. Chicago gained what Galena lost.

Satisfied with the building, I made a contract with the builder to have it taken down and put up at Mineral Point, and with a teamster to haul the same. For many years afterwards it was occupied as a store and postoffice, until a few years ago when it was destroyed by fire.

Mineral Point was then the most important town of Wisconsin. It was the county seat of Iowa County, and confidently expected to be the territorial capital. Its population was nearly 2,000 and steadily increasing. There were a dozen lead furnaces constantly in operation in and around the corporation, and some profitable mines were worked, giving employment to a large number of people.

Governor Dodge lived about four miles from town, and operated his furnace, together with his son Augustus C. Dodge, afterwards United States senator from Iowa. There were also the smelting establishments of C. F. Legate, Col. Pascal Bequette, Capt. John B. Terry, John F. O'Neill, and numerous others, all of whom made their headquarters at the "Point." It was also the home of the most noted