

ticularly the miners, were strenuously opposed to paper money of any kind, although among the merchants of Illinois and Michigan paper money was still circulated; but not one pound of mineral could be bought with it.

Henry and Nathan Corwith, of Galena, were the principal parties who supplied the smelters with necessary funds. When they discovered that paper money could no longer be used, they bought, in New York, a large amount of English sovereigns at probably \$4.80 to \$4.83, and paid them out to the smelters at the uniform rate of \$4.90. The majority of the miners being from England, knew the value of the coin, and never murmured at the rate, or refused to sell their mineral for the gold. It was safe money, quite unlike the notes of the wildcat banks which were liable at any moment to prove bits of worthless paper. For years they were gladly taken at that value; and in many a cabin you could find an old stocking filled with the precious metal which would not depreciate. The Corwiths realized a handsome profit on their investment.

The only attempt of which I have any recollection, to introduce paper money again, was made by Cadwallader C. Washburne, with the bills of the Hallowell Bank, of Maine, a few years later; but it was useless—the miners utterly refused to take them. The miners used to say they sold metal, and they wanted metal in exchange for it.

As I have already said, Mineral Point was at that time the home of the most prominent men of western Wisconsin, particularly in the profession of law. The numerous quarrels about mines, the jumping of claims, the encroachments of the diggers upon each other, caused endless litigation, presenting a fruitful field for the exercise of the talents of the lawyer. Moses M. Strong, attorney of the territory, afterwards member of the territorial council and speaker of the State assembly, had a fine residence here. Francis J. Dunn, secretary of the territory, and head of the law firm of Dunn, Jones & Crawford, was my next-door neighbor. He was generous-hearted, impulsive, very active, and a great worker. William R. Smith was probably the best-