

the Wisconsin River into Sauk County, where we knew, from plats we had taken at the land office at Mineral Point, that large bodies of government land were yet to be had. We concluded to cross the Wisconsin and examine the character of the land. We descended from the mountain, and traveled up stream to Helena, where C. C. Washburne was operating a shot tower. There we were ferried across the river, and traveled westward to the promised land that looked so tempting when we saw it from a distance. There was plenty of it, and the soil was very rich; but it was low ground, and we found no springs of fresh water, and only scattering timber, so concluded that it did not suit our purpose. We wanted land, water, and timber; for we were fearful that our settlers would fall victims to fever and ague, and reluctantly wound our way back, crossed the river, and returned to Mineral Point.

There we procured new plats, intending to visit the southern section of Iowa and adjoining counties. Starting out from the east fork of the Peckatonica River to Argyle, we crossed over into Green County, and toward sundown reached a valley which appeared to unite all the essential features that we needed to make a successful settlement. There were some squatters on the land, whom I knew. One was Stephen Armstrong and his wife, who had been our neighbors when we first settled on our farm in 1834. The other was a Canadian Frenchman whose name I cannot recall; but whose wife, Boleta, had for some years been a domestic in my mother's family. We spent the night there, and next morning examined the land. Comfort traced the lines. We wanted about 1200 acres, and there were that many acres and more, of splendid land, with water in abundance, and fine timber. We bought the claims of Armstrong and Boleta's husband, and, having arranged everything satisfactorily, returned to Mineral Point and secured the land at the land office. The money was sent by the authorities of the canton of Glarus, and Duerst soon after returned home to Switzerland. Streiff, however, remained to superintend the laying out of the village, and