

results of our trip so far as accomplished, they were paid off, and started for home via Fond du Lac and Fox Lake, in order to complete the examination which my sudden illness had interrupted.

The governor was so well pleased with my success that he offered me a winter's work in surveying and laying out the "City of the Four Lakes," which was projected on a grand scale, and intended to occupy a magnificent site on the northwesterly side of Fourth Lake, opposite the capital.¹ It was a tempting offer, the pay being liberal, and the advantages to me all that could have been desired; but its acceptance involved the hardships and exposure of a winter campaign, with only a tent for shelter, and well knowing all that this involved, I reluctantly declined his urgent request. I was still suffering from the effects of the late attack of illness, and felt that my strength was not equal to the labor which the undertaking would impose upon me. The panic of 1837 put an end to the proposed "City of the Four Lakes," as it also did to hundreds of other speculative schemes which had a splendid existence on paper, but which, owing to the hard times that followed, never materialized.

Were an intelligent and educated stranger, who knew nothing of the history of Wisconsin, now to make a tour through the state, examining in detail its cities, towns, railroads, factories and farms, and then be told that all the results of human enterprise, labor, and skill which he had witnessed had been accomplished during the last sixty years, he might be pardoned if he regarded the statement as a gross exaggeration; nevertheless, it would be but a simple recital of a marvelous fact.

¹ At what is now known as Livesey's Springs.— Ed.