THE

HISTORY OF PEORIA,

ILLINOIS.

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PEORIA, ILL.:
PRINTED BY N. C. NASON, 135 S. WASHINGTON STREET.
1870.

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PREFACE.

EVERY one admits the benefit of history. But of what advantage is history without truth; and yet how common is the expression that the time has not come for writing the history of such a one, or of such a war; implying that during the life of persons implicated in a wrong it will not do to detail that wrong. Then when will it do? If those who live at the time of a transaction dare not write a history of it, how will those who live afterward know of it? How can a man write a history of that which took place before he was born, if no account of it has been handed down to his time.

The practice now is, and public opinion seems to sustain the practice, to send every man who dies directly to the regions of eternal bliss, leaving none but the living as fit subjects of his Satanic Majesty. When a man dies by the halter, he, with a priest at his elbow to keep up his courage and his confidence, rejoices in the certain prospect of going immediately to the arms of Jesus, who stands ready to receive his guilty soul; and every man who dies a natural death, however great a rascal he may have been, is represented as having been a paragon of virtue. All his virtues, if he had any, are paraded in the newspapers, or, if he had none, virtues in abundance are attributed to him; and all his vices are ignored. And should any man object to this course, he would be told we "should never speak evil of the dead."

Had this been the doctrine of the authors of the Scriptures, we would to this day have remained ignorant of the important fact that Mr. Samson was an old libertine, and that Miss Delilah was any thing but a modest maiden. Nor would we now be aware of the more important fact that the man who, at one time, was 'a man after God's own heart', was at another time peeping into the garden at a beautiful woman, whose raiment, all told, was less than that of the woman Maj. Powell saw on the Colorado, to wit, a string of beads. Nor of the much more important fact that the old rascal had the husband of that woman killed, 'that he might possess the ewe-lamb' without annoyance. Nor would the still greater fact have come down to this generation that, even in that day, there was one who had dared, with reference to the doer of this great iniquity, to say unto David "Thou art the man."

All history should be true. But little good can be derived from

that which is not. He who portrays a man's virtues and suppresses his vices is morally guilty of falsehood; for he who believes the narrative believes that the subject of it was a good man, whereas his vices, if brought to view, would much modify his virtues, or, perhaps, entirely obscure them. Yet something is due to public opinion and a man's comfort. Public opinion would hardly, at this age, bear with a man's telling the whole truth with regard to the actors in earth's busy scenes; and I might essentially impair my comfort, when business brings me in contact with the descendants of our early settlers, should I remember to have said something derogatory of their ancestors.

I, therefore, have taken a medium course; and, while I have been careful to say nothing of any one that is not true, I have refrained from saying many things that were true, lest I might offend the descendants of those persons. It is exceeding difficult to pursue a proper course in this matter; and I think it likely that my course will be censured, and probably justly censured. If a little censure is all, I will submit to it as patiently as Hume submitted to a world of clamor raised against him for having exposed a few of the villainies of two of the worst potentates that ever ruled on this terrestrial ball—Henry the Eighth, and his daughter Queen Elizabeth.

This little book has been written in the most inclement season of the year, at a time when the state of my health made it hazardous to be much exposed to the weather, and I found but few who seemed inclined to aid me in my statistics; and, although I have taken pains to be correct, I have no doubt many errors may be found in the work. To the candid inquirer after truth I would say, note any errors you meet with, and send me a list, and if another edition be called for, I will cheerfully correct them. If any one shall think I have said any thing untrue about himself or ancestor, and will make it appear, I will correct it in the next edition, or, should there not be another edition, I will correct it in a public newspaper. But should any one, without resorting to this manly course, abuse me for saying things that are true, I pledge myself to show to the world that the half has not been told. There are some characters referred to in these pages about whom I would have said a good deal more, but for the regard I had for their descendants.

C. BALLANCE.

PEORIA, FEBRUARY 7TH, 1870.

HISTORY OF PEORIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF PEORIA.

If you wish to see where Peoria is, place yourself in front of any large map of the United States; raise your eyes as far north as Lake Michigan. Near its westerly shore, in the State of Wisconsin, you perceive several small streams, which, running a southerly course, unite and form the little river Desplaines. Turn your eyes to the right, and you will see, near the south end of Lake Michigan, in the State of Indiana, many small streams, and a great swamp, which form the Kankakee river. This river, as you perceive, runs into the State of Illinois, and mingles its waters with those of the Desplaines, and from their union to the confluence with the Mississippi river their united waters bear the name of the Illinois. Follow this stream from its head to its mouth, and you see a great many smaller streams which pour their waters into it, so that it becomes a large river.

Now again raise your eyes to the lake, and you will see a canal, extending from Chicago, on Lake Michigan,

to Lasalle, on the Illinois river. At the latter place a fine basin has been formed for the reception of canal-boats and steamboats. From this basin to St. Louis there are no rocks, nor 'sawyers', nor other impediments to navigation, except in very cold weather from ice, and occasionally in a very dry fall there fails to be water enough.

This river and canal give direct communication between St. Louis and Chicago (two of the most flourishing cities in America), and through them with all the world. About half way between these famous cities, you perceive an expansion in the Illinois river, about twenty miles long, called Lake Peoria. At the lower end of this expansion, on the southwest side, you perceive a number of railroads concentrate. At this point drive a stake, and append to it a line a hundred miles long, and strike a circle two hundred miles in diameter, and you will inclose more first-rate arable land, and less land unfit for cultivation, than you would by striking a circle, of the same diameter, any where else on the face of the globe. At this spot, in 40 deg. 40 min. north latitude, and 12 deg. 40 min. west longitude from Washington, stands the beautiful City of Peoria. And here might the poet well exclaim,

"Where Nature's God, in forming earth of naught,
Performed the last of all the works he wrought,
There stands Peoria, there in beauty shines
The fairest town-site on this earth's confines;
Like some great architect, for skill renowned,
Whose works of art do every where abound,
All which are good, but that performed the last
Outvies the rest, and can not be surpassed."

The river is placid and, except during freshets, clear. The whole town-plat is free from inundation. From the river to the bluff (about three-fourths of a mile) the soil is a sandy loam, and consequently generally dry and free from mud. The front of the bluff is mostly composed of pebble, but on and beyond the bluff the soil is rich loam, based on yellow clay. The land rises gradually from the water's edge until it attains an elevation of about seventy feet; but it recedes again considerably before reaching the bluff, so as to make the elevation appear considerably greater than it really is. From the top of this bluff, or rather from the top of a house on it, a scene of exceeding beauty is presented. All the houses in the city, residences, stores, churches, factories, etc., as well as the river and lake and hills beyond, may be seen from one spot.

In Mr. Parkman's 'Discovery of the Great West', page 156, in note, he says, in speaking of Utica, "This is the only part of the river-bottom, from this point to the Mississippi, not liable to inundation in the floods." If by 'river-bottoms' he means alluvial lands, this is a great mistake. The town-sites of Hennepin, Henry, Lacon, Chillicothe, Rome, Peoria, Pekin, Havana, Bath, Beardstown and Meredosia are all alluvial lands, and free from inundation.

From the description given of Lake Peoria, its width is generally supposed to be greater than it is. It is generally described as being twenty miles long, and from two to three miles wide. This will do pretty well for a high-water description, but not for a low-water one. In

low water, opposite the foot of Main street, it is only about a half-mile and twenty-one rods wide. It becomes a little wider two miles up; but at about four miles up are the Narrows, a point of land subject, it is true, to inundation, but for the most of the year making of one lake two lakes. Above the Narrows the lake becomes wider,—at some places, perhaps, a mile wide. Opposite Chillicothe there is a long island, immediately above which the river becomes compressed into its usual width. This lake formerly abounded in fish, ducks and geese, beyond any place I ever saw; but the fish have been greatly diminished and the ducks and geese have nearly disappeared. In early times swans, brants and cranes were also tolerably plenty, but now I seldom see one; especially, the beautiful white crane, which makes a handsome pet, I think has entirely disappeared.

The hills in the vicinity contain an inexhaustible supply of coal, and wood for fuel is abundant. Food can be concentrated here in greater quantities, and at lower prices, than at most places: consequently here should be a great manufacturing city. And this should be the granary of all this region. Here should be concentrated, through the winter, all the grain of this immensely fertile region, to be transported in the spring, east, west, north, or south, according to the exigency of trade.

CHAPTER II.

EARLY HISTORY OF PEORIA.

So much, by way of introduction, for the geography of Peoria. Now for its history. And here I find, as Mr. Lincoln said of the rebellion, I have 'a big job on hand': not big because of the difficulty of arranging materials so extensive and voluminous, but big because of the difficulty of composing a readable history out of materials so very scant. Had I 'the organ of marvelousness strongly developed', I might, like the Roman, Chinese and Hindoo historians, grope into the dark ages of antiquity, and gather up the absurd, and often impossible, traditions of the ancestors of our Indians, concerning their wars and their miracles, and the dealings of the Great Spirit with them; or gravely quote from the Book of Mormon, concerning the wars and wanderings of the ten lost tribes; or I might, in imitation of this fast age, dig into some mound, or stroll into some of the many cellars being dug, in Peoria, and gather up some fragments of human bones, beads—perhaps a copper coin, or some scraps of porcelain, or of a broken whisky-jug, as evidence 'strong as proofs from Holy Writ' that, in untold ages, a highly-civilized people had inhabited this beautiful place. Or I might run mad searching for some Rosetta Stone, that would reveal the wonders of those

times. But the trouble about this business is, I have not the organ of marvelousness very well developed. I can not believe without evidence; and should some evidence be produced in favor of a proposition, I would still not believe it, as long as better evidence was at hand to counteract it.

I therefore commence my history of Peoria only about 196 years ago, the date of the arrival of the first white man at this place. But about this we know but little. It is said that Father Marquette, on the 10th of June, 1673, accompanied by a gentleman from Canada by the name of Joliet, five Frenchmen, and two Algonquin Indians, as guides, passed from Green Bay across to the Mississippi river, by the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, and, after having descended the Mississippi as far down as the mouth of the Arkansas, ascended by way of the Illinois to Lake Michigan, and part of them to Canada; but the object of Joliet being merely to ascertain whether the Mississippi entered into the Pacific Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, he returned as soon as he ascertained that fact, by the easiest route; and it being the sole object of Marquette to preach to the Indians, and neither of them desiring to plant a colony, they probably kept a very meagre journal respecting this country, and what they did keep was lost, so that the world was but little benefited by their discoveries.

Marquette was a religious enthusiast, a devotee, perhaps I might say a misanthrope. He would not go home, but preached to the Indians about the head of Lake Michigan, for two years. For some reason, after he had

preached in that region for about that time, he went about three hundred miles north, and entered a little river, in the now State of Michigan, not far from Mackinaw, which river has since been called by his name. On its bank he erected a rude altar, and, prevailing on the canoe-men who accompanied him to leave him alone, he said mass according to the rites of the Catholic church, of which he was a priest, and prayed and died. After his fellow travelers had given him sufficient time for his devotions, as they supposed, they returned and found him dead, and buried him in the sand, where he had died. The cause of his death is not known. He had probably lived as long as life was desirable.

Either of those men might have been of great service to the world, by carefully describing this country and its inhabitants, and then preserving their journal; but we have nothing from them but the great truth that the Mississippi does not run into the Pacific Ocean! and that Illinois is a rich country.

CHAPTER III.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. LASALLE, HENNEPIN, AND TONTI.

The next visit made to Peoria by civilized men was seven years after Marquette and Joliet had passed, when Mr. La Salle, accompanied by Hennepin, a Franciscan

monk, and Tonti, an Italian military character, visited the place. Upon the veracity of Hennepin alone we rely for an account of that hazardous adventure, for I know of no account of that voyage but that kept by Hennepin. He says: "This day [Jan. 1, 1680] we went through a lake, formed by the river, about seven leagues long and one broad. The savages call that place Pimiteoui; that is, in their language, a place where there is abundance of fat beasts. When the river of the Illinois freezes, which is but seldom, it freezes only to this lake, and never from thence to the Meschasipi, into which this river falls. We found ourselves, on a sudden, in their camp, which took up the two sides of the river. M. de La Salle ordered his men immediately to make their arms ready, and brought his canoes on a line, placing himself to the right, and M. Tonti to the left; so that we took almost the whole breadth of the river. The Illinois, who had not discovered our fleet [of eight canoes] were very much surprised to see us coming so swiftly upon them; for the stream is very rapid at that place. Some ran for their arms, but the most of them took to flight, with horrid cries and howlings.

"The current brought us, in the mean time, to their camp, and M. La Salle went the very first ashore, followed by his men, which increased the consternation of the savages, whom we might have easily defeated; but, as it was not our design, we made a halt to give them time to recover themselves, and see that we were no enemies. M. La Salle might have prevented their confusion by showing his calumet, or pipe of peace; but he was afraid the savages would inpute it to our weakness."

La Salle had much trouble, while at this place, both with the savages and with his men. Both seem to have been treacherous; and, to cap the climax of his woes, he ascertained that a vessel called the Griffin, freighted with furs, in which he had invested nearly every thing he was worth and perhaps more, had been lost on its way down the lakes to Montreal. Under these circumstances, he built a fort to protect what he had with him, while he would return to Canada for more men and supplies. As a memento of his trouble, he called the fort *Creve-Cœur*, which in French means broken heart.

La Salle went back to Canada for men and supplies to carry out his enterprises. But, the Indians becoming hostile, Tonti left that part of the country, and fled to Green Bay, and took shelter under the Indians in that region; so that when La Salle returned, in the next spring, he found Fort Creve-Cœur entirely abandoned. Nor do I find that it was ever after occupied; and Charlevoix, who traveled through the country about forty years afterward, says it was then entirely abandoned. It is true that when La Salle found that Tonti had abandoned that part of the country he went to Green Bay, and brought him back to the Illinois, where he assisted to build a vessel, in which they sailed down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. He seems to have done much hard service for La Salle in his lifetime, and to have risked much to recover his remains after his death. He also seems to have held possession of the country for France for several years after La Salle's death; but I no where find evidence that he occupied Creve-Cœur or Peoria.

The histories some times speak of his occupying Rock Fort, and some times Fort St. Louis. In his recital to the French crown of his arduous services, he makes no mention of either but of Fort St. Louis. He says: "These discoveries being finished, he remained in 1683 commandant of Fort St. Louis, of the Illinois, and in 1684 he was there attacked by 200 Iroquois, whom he repulsed with great loss on their side."—*Brown's History of Illinois, page 128.*

Where Rock Fort or Fort St. Louis was situated will, I presume, be for ever unknown. Some have located it on the Starved Rock, and some on the Buffalo Rock. As long ago as May, 1833, I was on the Starved Rock, and examined it with some care, but saw no evidence of any fortification ever having been there. And so effectually was every thing done by that set of Frenchmen obliterated, before the country fell into the hands of the Americans, that not a vestige could be found: nothing to show they had ever been at that place.

Since the above was written, I have perused Mr. Parkman's new work, *The Discovery of the Great West*, and I think he has pretty well established the fact that Rock Fort and Fort St. Louis were one and the same, and that the locality was on what is now known as the Starved Rock. See his book, pages 156, 177, 205, 287, 288, 221, 289, and 290. It is true, however, that thirty-six years ago I saw no vestige of any buildings or fortifications at that place. All had gone to decay, and trees had grown over the site.

But where Mr. Parkman gets his description of Fort

Creve-Cœur I can not imagine. (See page 167.) His description is not justified by any thing Hennepin says about it, nor is there any ground at that place that fits his description. There is no hill or knoll there, but the land is all under water occasionally, for more than a mile back from the river. Where does he get the authority for saying this fort was defended by chevaux-de-frise and palisades twenty-five feet high?

CHAPTER IV.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED—PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE ABORIGINES.

THERE were then only wandering savages in these parts, whose business was to catch fish and hunt deer enough to support life, while they, as a matter of much more importance, spent much of their time in hunting one another, and they killed, or were killed, as courage, skill or luck would have it; and hence the garden-spot of the earth, the country between the Alleghanies on the east and the Rocky Mountains on the west, and the great Lakes on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, capable of containing 100,000,000 of human beings, possessed only a few despicable savages, who sought every opportunity to make the number less.

Those who believe whatever they are told, without in-

quiry, believe that this country was long since densely populated, by a highly-civilized people; and our love-sick novelists, in speaking of the degraded remnant we found here, speak of the gallantry and courage of the great warriors, and of the beautiful Indian maidens. My experience on the subject is decidedly unfavorable to Indian courage, chivalry and beauty. I never saw an Indian that would fight unless he had the advantage; nor do I think I ever saw one who had ever felt an impulse of true gallantry. They were males, and, like other animals, knew and appreciated the other sex; but, further than this, gallantry was unknown to them. A woman was by the Indians more admired for carrying a large pack of venison or fur skins than for possessing beauty. We read about great Indian towns; but they had no towns, —not even a house for a residence, place of worship, nor for any other purpose. The only houses they had were wigwams, that could be speedily removed upon their ponies, or in their canoes. The whole fabric consisted of poles placed in the ground, in a circle, and the tops bent together and tied with bark. Several other poles were bent around horizontally, and tied to these, and then mats, which they made of grass, were spread over these, and the edifice was completed. For a chimney, a hole was left in the top. For a door, one mat was left loose below, so as to be raised, when necessary, whereas the other mats were tied to pegs driven in the ground.

Our credulous ancestors were made to believe that these people were converted to Christianity. Father Hennepin and other Catholic priests baptized thousands of

them, nearly two hundred years ago, and Father Walker, a pious Methodist, some forty years ago, devoted himself to their service, and no doubt thought he made great proficiency in leading them in the way of life; but they only listened to his sermons for the sake of the corn-bread and pork his wife fed them on after the sermon was over. Every body but father Walker knew this. He, however, had the happiness to pass through life with the sincere belief that his glory in the next world would be greatly enhanced by the presence of these savages as witnesses of his great Christian zeal. George E. Walker, a wealthy old gentleman of Ottawa, is a nephew to this man.

The writer hereof has seen some of Rev. Mr. Walker's disciples, besides many other Indians, such as infested these plains previous to the Black-Hawk War, and gives it as his firm belief that there was not an Indian, at that time, in Illinois, that believed the Christian religion at all. Nor had they any well-defined notions of religion of any kind. The priests had taught them something about their God, who is a spirit, and about miracles, and the mysterious virtue of relics, and the sacred host. The savages, not understanding these things, perverted them. Each tribe soon had its medicine-man, who, with his medicine-bag of numerous nothings, answered them well enough for a priest, and performed a goodly number of miracles,—at least, made them believe so.

Our relic-hunters have found, all over this country, the evidences of an ancient civilization, in fortifications, tumuli, broken pottery, etc. This is all a delusion, but the common delusion of little men, who have 'a little

learning', which Pope says is a dangerous thing. I was born in the West, and have lived in it for the space of sixty-eight years, but have never seen any evidence of this kind, nothing that could not be explained upon some other hypothesis. I have seen nothing that the most fanatical ought to construe into a fortification. I have seen mounds in which there were human bones; but why not say that Indians selected high places in which to bury their dead, as civilized people do, especially as some Indians, not being satisfied with the elevation of the highest mounds, deposited their departed friends on large trees? It would be much easier to *select* a mound than to *build* one, especially as they had neither picks, shovels, nor carts, nor *Irishmen* to use them; for every one knows that if the Indians had tools they were too lazy to use them.

There is a hillock not far from the City of Joliet, which has been honored with the title of Mount Joliet, of which Peck, in his Gazetteer, says "it is evidently the work of art"; and the author of *American Antiquities* says, "This mound consists of eighteen million two hundred and fifty thousand solid feet of earth. How long it must have been in being built is more than can be made out, as the number of men employed, and the facilities to carry on the work, are unknown." To those who have never examined, nor even seen, Mount Joliet, this theory is very pretty; but to those who have seen and examined it, it appears too absurd to merit a refutation, had not sensible men fallen into the error. I have been on and about Mount Joliet, and examined it with a view to this

question, and I assure the reader that there not only is no appearance there to indicate that it was made by hands, but the most conclusive evidence that it is the result of mighty currents of water flowing there for ages long gone by. It is simply a great pile of stones and pebbles, which have been rounded by being rubbed and rolled against each other. The amount of clay and earth among these stones and pebbles is so small as hardly to be perceived; yet grass and weeds have annually grown on the top and decayed for ages, until a pretty good soil is formed there. This great pile of pebbles does not extend into the earth, but it stands on it—on a bed of clay, that is being manufactured, on a large scale, into fire-brick and underground tiling, or more properly piping, while the pebbles are being carried to Chicago to pave gutters and streets.

In the month of February, 1832, I was temporarily boarding at Robbins's Hotel, in Alton, and the subject of the mounds in the American Bottom was under discussion; and, to prove they were artificial, it was asserted that they contained human bones. I pointed to a high peak, a little to the northwest of where the penitentiary was afterward built, and asked one of the company if, in his opinion, that was artificial. He replied certainly not: that that had manifestly been made by the rains wearing away the earth about it. Well, said I, I will venture the assertion that there are human bones in that. He thought not; and, having time enough on our hands, we procured tools, and dug into it, and found human bones.

I once found, with the bones of an Indian, a piece of

his gun, the blade of his butcher-knife, and portions of an opaque glass bottle. I have also seen beads, hatchets, and other things indicating a considerable degree of civilization, that had been taken from Indian graves. How much more reasonable the hypothesis that these things were procured from the French traders than that they were made by civilized men, whose descendants had become barbarous.

It is known to all who have read history that the daily necessaries and conveniences of life are never lost by the descendants of civilized men, however barbarous they may become. No nation that ever had the benefit of iron ever lost the use of it. The same is true as to horses and cattle, and many other things. The Indians had none of these things, when found by white men; yet horses were so necessary to them, and so easily raised in this grassy country, that they have never been without them since. Men fond of the marvelous are averse to scanning evidence. They seem afraid of discovering its insufficiency.

I knew a blacksmith who, for some purpose, made a wrought-iron cup; but when he undertook to solder it with brass, he made it too hot, and spoilt it, but the solder spread and run into the pores of the hot iron. He threw it away, and it lay behind his shop for years. In the neighborhood lived a man who had a good spring, of which he often boasted. A mischievous lad buried this cup in that spring. In process of time, in cleaning out the spring, the cup was found, and attracted much attention. It was very rusty, of course; but upon being filed

it seemed to be a compound of brass and iron. Some thought it a new metal, unknown to us, but known to the ancients. Here was evidence, conclusive 'as proofs from Holy Writ', of an ancient civilization. The excitement became so intense as to draw the blacksmith from his anvil. The astonished audience became more astonished, when the blacksmith avowed that he had made that very cup. An investigation brought to light the person who put it there.

I lay it down as a fact that a country once inhabited by civilized men, the vestiges of their civilization can never be destroyed. Witness the remains in Herculaneum, Nineveh, and Egypt. If there had ever been a civilized people here, the stones or metals would present some evidence of their literature; but every thing that I have seen of that kind was manifestly of French origin. All engravings and stamps that I have seen were of Latin letters, which the French use, as well as ourselves.

Then with regard to the aboriginal inhabitants I have no history to give. They were wild men, without any literature or permanent habitations, and had never been in a superior condition.

CHAPTER V.

THE ANCIENT FRENCH POPULATION.

Nor should we allow ourselves to be deceived as to the amount of civilization that existed here before the French village was broken up, in 1812. Attempts have been made to convince men that there was a fine, flourishing settlement here, of civilized, enterprising, intelligent people. I apprehend that the men La Salle and others brought here were of the lower class, and most ignorant of the French population. If not, they had woefully deteriorated between the time they were brought here and the destruction of their village. I have not been able to ascertain the population of Peoria when the village was broken up, by Capt. Craig. Every man of them, I believe, is dead, except Robert Forsyth, of St. Louis, who was then a boy. I wrote to him for a list of them, as near as his recollection would serve him, and I suppose he knows, for, besides being born among them, he spent fifteen years in hunting them up, and bringing and conducting suits, in which he derived his title through them; but he has not answered my letter. Nor do I find any record or history giving the number of the population at that time. From any information I possess, I can only find the names of sixteen men who were there

at the time. As this statement will probably be disputed, I here insert their names. Thomas Forsyth, Louis Pilette, Jaques Mette, Pierre Lavoisseur dit Chamberlain, Antoine LeClair, Michael LeCroix, Francis Racine, sen., Francis Racine, jun., John Baptiste de Fond, Felix Fontaine, Louis Binet, Hypolite Maillet, Francis Buche, Charles La Belle, Antoine La Pance and Antoine Bourbonne. Of these Michael Le Croix escaped to Canada and accepted a commission from the enemy, and fought against us. Others claimed lots by reason of their residence at this place; but the proof on file at the land-office, an abstract of which can be found in third volume of American State Papers, page 422, shows that they had previously abandoned the place—some of them more than twenty years before. But I will suppose I have overlooked some (which is possible), and call the number twenty-five. Then, if these men had, on an average, five in a family (which is the usual calculation), we have in this village, that has made so much noise and caused so much trouble, a population of one hundred and twenty-five souls, all told; and except these, I know of no French inhabitants on the Illinois river, in those days, nor between the Mississippi and Wabash, excepting, always, a very ancient Frenchman, by the name of Bisson (pronounced Besaw) who always lived at Wesley (then called the Trading House). I have seen many affidavits and other papers signed by these men, but signed with a mark. I remember as exceptions to this rule that Thomas Forsyth, Michael Le Croix and Antoine La Pance wrote their names. There were probably others that could write,

but I do not remember them. I remember no case where a French woman could write her name. The depositions in the Peoria French claims at Edwardsville, and in the many suits brought on them, will show if I am right. These were fishermen and hunters, not farmers. All the fields they pretended ever to have in cultivation amounted to less than three hundred acres, even, if none of the fields had been deserted before they left. When the village was burnt I think they had less than two hundred acres in cultivation. They, however, some times acted as *voyageurs* for the Indian traders, but of manufactures they had none. They had not a school-house or church, nor a dwelling-house that deserved the name. I saw and examined the ground on which their houses had stood, before the ground was disturbed, and I am able to state that there was not a stone nor brick wall in the village, for any purpose, nor was there a cellar. Some of the houses had a small place excavated under the floor, in front of the fire-place, for potatoes. Some of the houses had posts, in the ground, and some were framed with sills; but, in stead of being boarded up as with us, the space between the posts was filled with pieces of timber laid horizontally, with mud between them. The chimneys were made of mud and sticks. That they had no gardens, in the common acceptation of the term, is manifest from this: many of the cultivated plants, when once introduced in a place, if deserted by man, will never cease to grow there. This is true of all the fruits that grow in this climate, and it is true of many herbs, and of some culinary vegetables. Every one knows that, long

after a farm is deserted, the apple-trees and gooseberry and currant bushes will continue to grow; and tansy, flags, lilies and mustard, and many other plants, were never known voluntarily to abandon the place where they had once grown. Yet, when the present population commenced to settle here, about forty years ago, there was not to be found, in this neighborhood, a vestige of a tree, shrub or plant belonging to Europe. They would have made wine of the sour grapes of the woods, if they had had sugar to assuage its acidity and cellars to preserve it; but the sugar could not then be afforded, and the cellars they had not. And we know they had no French grapes, for the reason above—no vines remain. I therefore pronounce the wine story a humbug.

CHAPTER VI.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. COLES'S REPORT.

But a word more about the French population. The first Frenchmen who ever saw Peoria, or rather the ground on which it stands, were Father Marquette and his party, in the summer of 1673, but they formed no colony, nor did they leave any one to hold possession of the place. The next party that visited the place was that under La Salle, in January 1, 1680. They attempted

to establish a trading-post, and actually built a fort; but the men behaved badly, and the Indians became hostile, and, during La Salle's absence to Canada to obtain supplies and men, they all abandoned the place. Upward of forty years afterward, when Charlevoix visited this place, he found no Frenchmen here, nor have I been able, from any source, to learn when the French first commenced their village at Peoria. According to Coles's report, they were here before the oldest inhabitant could remember.

Edward Coles, who was then register of the land-office at Edwardsville, but who was afterward governor of Illinois, a man of an inquiring mind, and fond of antique matters, and who took nearly all the proofs on which Peoria French claims are based, reported as follows to the Secretary of the Treasury:

"The old village of Peoria was situated on the northwest shore of Lake Peoria, about one mile and a half above the lower extremity or outlet of the lake. This village had been inhabited by the French previous to the recollection of any of the present generation. About the year 1778 or 1779, the first house was built in what was then called La Ville de Maillet, afterward the New Village of Peoria, and of late the place has been known by the name of Fort Clark, situated about one mile and a half below the old village, immediately at the lower point or outlet of Lake Peoria. The situation being preferred on account of the water being better, and its being thought more healthy, the inhabitants gradually deserted the old

village, and by the year 1796 or 1797 had entirely abandoned it, and removed to the new village.

"The inhabitants of Peoria consisted generally of Indian traders, hunters, and voyageurs, and had formed a link of connection between the French residing on the waters of the great lakes and the Mississippi river. From that happy faculty of adapting themselves to their situation and associates, for which the French are so remarkable, the inhabitants of Peoria lived generally in harmony with their savage neighbors. It would seem, however, that about the year 1781 they were induced to abandon the village, from an apprehension of Indian hostilities; but soon after the peace of 1783 they again returned, and continued to reside there until the autumn of the year 1812, when they were forcibly removed from it, and the place destroyed by Capt. Craig, of the Illinois militia, on the ground, as it was said, that he and his company of militia were fired on in the night, while at anchor, in their boats, before the village, by Indians, with whom the inhabitants were suspected by Craig to be too intimate and friendly.

"The inhabitants of Peoria, it would appear from all I can learn, settled there without any grant or permission from the authority of any government; that the only title they had to their lands was derived from possession, and the only value attached to it grew out of the improvements placed on it. That each person took to himself such portion of unoccupied land as he wished to occupy and cultivate, and made it his own by incorporating his labor with it; but as soon as he abandoned it, his title was understood to cease, with his possession and im-

provements, and it reverted to its natural state, and was liable again to be improved and possessed by any one who should think proper. This, together with the itinerant character of the inhabitants, will account for the number of persons who will frequently be found from the testimony, contained in the report, to have occupied the same lot, many of whom, it will be seen, present conflicting claims.

"As is usual in French villages, the possession in Peoria consisted generally of village lots, on which they erected their buildings and made their gardens, and of outlots or fields, in which they cultivated grain, etc. The village lots contained, in general, about one half of an arpent of land; the outlots or fields were of various sizes, depending on the industry or means of the owner to cultivate more or less land.

"As neither the old nor new village of Peoria was ever formally laid out or had defined limits assigned them, it is impossible to have of them an accurate map. . . . I have not been able to ascertain, with precision, on what particular quarter-sections of the military survey these claims are situated."—*Coles's Report to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated Nov. 10, 1820. 3d vol. Amer. State Papers, 421.*

Mr. Coles was a gentleman who would aim to speak the truth, but he was surrounded by those claimants, and no one else. He had no means of knowing any thing about them and their claims but from themselves; and yet, observe his statements: "The inhabitants of Peoria, it

would appear from all I can learn, settled there without any grant or permission from the authority of any government; that the only title they had to their lands was derived from possession, and the only value attached to it grew out of the improvements placed on it," etc.; and the village had been inhabited only previous to the recollection of any of the *present* generation. And this statement was made in the fall of 1820. How long any of these had been there it is no where further shown than that it was beyond their recollection. For the space of about eighty years after La Salle's men left, I have consulted no book that shows that any white man was living at Peoria.

CHAPTER VII.

ANCIENT FORTIFICATIONS.

On page 135, Hennepin says, "M. La Salle, improving this fair season, desired me to go down the river with him to choose a place to build a fort. After having viewed the country, we pitched upon an eminence on the bank of the river, defended on that side by the river, and on two other sides by ditches the rains had made very deep, by succession of time, so that it was accessible only by one way; therefore we cast a line to join those two natural ditches, and

made the eminence steep, on every side, supporting the earth with great pieces of timber." This was done on the 15th of January, 1680. This is the fort which, on account of La Salle's troubles and misfortunes, he called Creve-Cœur; and this quotation settles, at once and for ever, a question that has been disputed for the last thirty years, to wit, the precise locality of this fort. The most of those who have written on the subject have placed it above Peoria—some two or three miles, and others six or eight miles above. But the first difficulty that hypothesis meets with is, there is no high land on that side of the river within the bounds proposed. All the land above the city, on that side, for more than the greatest distance proposed, is liable to to overflow to the extent of ten or fifteen feet. Besides, Hennepin says, to locate it they went from Peoria '*down the river*', and that they found a place where there was an 'eminence', and the 'bank of the river' made one line, and two sides were made 'by ditches the rains had made very deep'. There is no place on the river that fits this description but the village of Wesley; and that fits it exactly.

Reynolds, whose means of correct information was superior, or at least equal, to that of any one else, but who was oftener in error, says "there is some confusion with authors in regard to the forts, and their precise location. There were two forts: one called Creve-Cœur, and the other Rock Fort, or Fort St. Louis. Creve-Cœur was located some where, I presume, on the southeast side, eight miles above Peoria, on the lake"; etc.

There were, in fact, six works called forts.

1st, Creve-Cœur, situated at Wesley, on the east side the river, built by La Salle, in 1680, as above described.

2d, Fort Clark, built, as hereafter described, in 1813, by U. S. troops.

3d, Fort Clark, built by the citizens of Peoria in 1832, on the site of old Fort Clark, but never occupied.

4th, A fort built (when I do not know) by the French population, about 150 feet above the pottery. This was burnt by the Indians about the year 1788. The quarter-section on which this fort stood has been in the possession of Mr. John Birket for about forty-three years. In 1826 he could trace the lines of said fort by the lower end of the pickets still being there then, and by the earth being higher along the lines of the pickets than elsewhere. Back of this fort was the remains of a smith-shop, and near it, in digging up a wild plum-tree, he struck into a considerable quantity of metal, mostly iron, among which were some gun-barrels, the whole having the appearance of having been the stock in trade of a gunsmith, that had long been buried there. Among the rest was some silver plate, which had probably been had to inlay gun-stocks by way of ornament. As small change was then very scarce, he cut this up into small circular pieces, in imitation of small coin, and passed them as such. If any question was made as to their genuineness, he would say he knew they were good, for he made them himself.

5th, It would seem, from the testimony of Hypolite Maillet, given in French Claim No. 7 (American State Papers, vol. 3, page 424), that he, who was forty-five

years old in 1820, was 'born in a stockaded fort' on block 50, a little above the upper bridge.

6th, Rock Fort, or Fort St. Louis, built by La Salle, in 1680, some where between the present towns of Lasalle and Ottawa. I suppose this was the best-built and most important of all these fortifications. For its locality see Chapter IV.

CHAPTER VIII.

INDIAN WAR. GOV. EDWARDS AND CAPT. CRAIG.

By the treaty with Great Britain made in 1783, and particularly by Jay's treaty, made in 1794, all Frenchmen in Illinois became citizens—at least subjects—of the United States, and owed allegiance to them; and when the war between Great Britain and the United States broke out in 1812, it was treason for them to aid the British, or their allies, the Indians. The French at Peoria were charged with obtaining ammunition from the British in Canada, and furnishing it to the Indians at Peoria; with murdering our people, in the southern part of the state; and John Baptiste Maillet (Capt. Maillet), the chief military man at Peoria (and who was afterward rewarded by the United States for his supposed loyalty to them), was charged with stealing cattle from the

Wood-River settlement, in Madison county, to feed the Indians at Peoria. These stories may not have been true; but they were plausible, and it was the duty of Gov. Edwards to inquire into them. He therefore ordered Capt. Craig, of the Illinois militia, to ascend the Illinois (there then being no roads in that part of the state) for that purpose.

That Gov. Edwards believed those stories, and was greatly alarmed, is manifest from a letter he wrote on the 4th of August, 1812, to Mr. Eustis, Secretary of War of the United States. He says, in speaking of the Indians, "Those near Peoria are now constantly killing and eating the cattle of the people of that village. . . . The Indians on the Illinois are well supplied with English powder, and have been selling some of it to the white people. A few days ago they sent some of their party with five horses to the Sac Village for lead." In a postscript he adds, "No troops of any kind have yet arrived in this territory, and I think you may count upon hearing of a bloody stroke upon us very soon. I have been extremely reluctant to send my family away; but, unless I hear shortly of more assistance than a few rangers, I shall bury my papers in the ground, send my family off, and stand my ground as long as possible."

There were in those days no steamboats, and Craig used small row-boats. But as Capt. Craig has been greatly vilified for burning Peoria, I will let him speak for himself. After it was over, and he had returned home, he made the following report of his doings to the governor.

SHAWNEETOWN, ILLINOIS TERRITORY,
December 10, 1812.

GOVERNOR EDWARDS,—

Sir: I landed at Peoria on the 5th of November, 1812, and left that place on the 9th. * * * * said the Indians were all gone. I believed none of the citizens, from their actions. The sentinels on board my boats could hear and see them passing through town, with candles, and hear canoes crossing the river all night, for several nights. We would land in the morning to look, and see fresh horse-tracks in town. There is no doubt but that they were Indians. . . . . I am convinced the French knew of your return. They were in council every day, and did detain Governor Howard's express, against his will. . . . . About midnight of the 6th of November, the wind blew so hard in the lake that we were forced to draw the boats about one-quarter of a mile below Peoria. We there cast anchor; the wind still continuing to blow with such force that it broke our cable, and drifted the armed boat on shore. It was at that time very dark, and our anchor lost. I thought myself secure, as it was impossible for the Indians to discover us before daylight, unless they were in town at the time we passed. Between the break of day and daylight, I opened my cabin-window, and was talking with the sentinel on the stern deck. We had spoke but a few words before we were fired on by, I think, ten or more guns, not more than thirty yards from the boat. The men were immediately fixed for battle, but were disappointed, as they [the Indians] made their escape immediately. We only heard them yelp after the fire. So soon as it was clear daylight, I had the boats landed about the centre of the village, and sent to know what had become of the citizens. They said they had heard nor seen nothing. I then sent to the place we were fired on. There were tracks plenty leading from that place up to

the village. This was what I expected. I immediately had them all taken prisoners except Howard's express. They were all in a house with their guns. Their guns appeared to have just been fired. The most of them were empty. I gave them time to collect their property, which was done immediately.

Howard's express came on board my boat and told me that seven of the citizens went out (they said to hunt beef) the morning we were fired upon. They started about the break of day, and returned about daylight. He said perhaps there were more, for they would never let him know what they were going to do, and would *talk together* in his absence. We staid two days after they were taken prisoners. I made them furnish their own rations all the time I kept them. I burnt down about half the town of Peoria, and I would have burnt the whole and destroyed all the stock, but I still expected Hopkins's army to pass the place. I found four American muskets in their possession, and one keg of musket-balls, and one musket in the house, under the floor, and some brass musket-moulds. On our way down the river, they were all unarmed. I gave them permission to camp on shore, whilst I anchored in the river. They always preferred the Indian side for their camping-ground.

I have been very unwell since my return home. I can scarcely sit up to write you, but I am mending.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your humble servant,

THOS. E. CRAIG.*

*I received this letter from Hon. Ninian W. Edwards, the son of Gov. Ninian Edwards, and by him I am restricted to publish it as it is here, without the blanks being filled up; but I presume the whole will soon appear in a forthcoming History of Illinois, which he is about to publish. I know not his motive for withholding from me a full copy, unless it is an apprehension that it might affect the sale of his book.

I have not been able to find the authority by which said Craig took those troops to Peoria; but that he did the business under Gov. Edwards's order, and to his satisfaction, is presumable, from the fact that the governor afterward appointed him colonel of the militia, and also judge of Gallatin county.

CHAPTER IX.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. GOV. REYNOLDS'S ACCOUNT OF IT.

But this is a much less war than the government intended to get up in this region. It was planned to send an army of Kentucky volunteers across Indiana and Illinois to Peoria Lake, and another of Illinois militia, under Governor Edwards and Col. Russell, from the southern portion of Illinois, to form a junction with them in that vicinity, and, thus united, to be able to overcome any force the Indians might be able to bring against them. Gov. Shelby, of Kentucky, called for volunteers for this purpose, and got more men than he wanted, and had to turn some back. The troops accepted were concentrated at Vincennes into an army, and marched up the Wabash to Fort Harrison (near where the city of Terre Haute has since been built), and there crossed the Wabash, and struck out into the Grand Prairie, for the Kickapoo vil-

lage and Peoria. They had been brought up in a land of forests, where they could always have wood to cook with, trees to shelter them against an enemy, and plenty of pure, running water, and provisions to eat; but here they were out of sight of timber, in the bleak, wide expanse, with no good water, and not much of any kind, and provisions scarce; and, to cap the climax, they had heard the foolish stories, that all the travelers who have traveled in the great prairies tell, about the horrible prairie-fires, that can lick up whole regiments, and they saw the prairies on fire in the distance, and they got horribly scared: they got sulky: they mutinied, and went home, without doing any thing, leaving the other and smaller army to its fate; and, had the Indians known the situation, they could have easily cut it off.

Fortunately, however, for us, the Indians did not know the unsupported condition of Edwards and Russell's little army; and as soon as the latter found they were unsupported by Gen. Hopkins, they made their escape out of that part of the country. But as a stripling of their army, John Reynolds, who afterward became governor of the state, besides filling several other high offices, published a history of his life and times, I prefer to let him tell the story about the smaller army in his own way. He says: "We left Camp Russell—marched up the northwest side of Cahokia creek, nearly to its source, thence across the prairie to Macoupin creek, not far above the present Carlinville. . . . . We had guides along who conducted the army to the village of Potawatamie Indians, known as the Black Partridge village, situated

at the Illinois bluffs, nearly opposite the upper end of Peoria Lake. We camped within four or five miles of the village, and all was silent as a grave-yard—as we expected a night attack, as was the case with Harrison at Tippecanoe. When troops are *silent*, *sulky* and *savage*, they will fight. Our horses were tied near the camp, saddled and prepared for action, if needed. We lay with our clothes on, and guns in our arms.

"A soldier by the name of Bradshaw fixing his gun, it fired. Every man in the army was sure of a battle; but, in a few minutes, Gov. Edwards cried out 'it was an accident.' One thing I recollect, I had a white blanket-coat on, and I considered it too white at night. I *hulled* this coat off in double-quick time. It was said every one with a white coat on in the battle of Tippecanoe was killed. . . . . The next morning, in a fog, our company, the spies, met two Indians, as we supposed, and our captain fired on them. Many of us, before he shot, begged for mercy for the Indians, as they wanted to surrender. But Judy said any body will surrender when they can not help it, and that he did not leave home to take prisoners. I saw the dust rise off the Indian's leather shirt, when Judy's bullet entered his body. Both Indians were mounted on good horses. The Indian commenced singing his death-song, the blood streaming out of his mouth and nose. He was reeling, and a man from the main army, Mr. Wright, came up within a few yards of the wounded Indian, but the Indian just previously had presented his gun at some of us near him, but we darted off our horses as quick as thought, and presented the horses

between him and us, so he could not shoot us; but Wright was either surprised or something else, and remained on his horse. The Indian, as quick as a steel trap, shot Wright, and in a few miuutes the Indian expired. . . . . The other Indian supposed to be a warrior was a squaw. But before the fact was known, many guns were fired at her. It is singular that so many guns fired at the squaw missed her; but when the whites surrounded her and knew her sex, all was over. She cried terribly, and was taken prisoner, and at last delivered over to her nation. Many of the French, in the army, understood her language, and made her as happy as possible. In this matter, I never fired my gun, as I saw no occasion for it. . . . .

"When the troops came near the village, no order nor restraint could be observed. All pounced on the town, *pell-mell*, with shouts 'loud and long'; but just when we came in sight, the Indians — men, women and children — retreated from the village, in the greatest hurry and speed. Near the town were swamps, almost impassable, and a great portion of the horsemen were mired before they knew it. My horse fell down in the mud, and I went rolling over his head, in the swamp. Near me, I saw Gov. Edwards and horse flounder in a deep mud-hole, both down and covered with black mud. The village was built here on account of the mud and impassable morasses, for defense. The Indians saved themselves by the swamps. Horsemen could not act, and the cat-tail and brush were so thick in these morasses that the Indians hid in them, and it was dangerous to approach them. Several parties, on

foot, trailed after the body of Indians two or three miles, across the swampy bottom, to the river, and killed some of the enemy on the route, and at the river. A few of the army were wounded, but none killed. . . . . What corn and other articles could not be removed were burnt. A complete destruction of the village was effected. Some Indian children were found in the ashes and saved. A large Indian was wounded, and thereby was unable to run off with the rest; he was starving, and ate bread voraciously when it was given him. He was protected while the army remained in the village, but it was said that some straggler behind killed him after the army left. . .

"When we reached this village, we heard nothing of Hopkins; and I presume it was not prudent to remain there any time. In this vicinity, in a day or two, one thousand Indians could be assembled. Under these circumstances, the army started back the same day they destroyed the village. I recollect all the booty I took was a deer-skin, sewed fast all around, and it full of corn. It rained in the evening, and my corn-sack got wet, which caused it to become as slippery as a fish; but I hung to it, and got it into camp that night.

"Every one dreaded an attack from the Indians, as they all knew that they were numerous in that vicinity. We traveled on to dark, in torrents of rain, and camped on the high bluff of the river, where we could obtain neither water to drink nor wood to burn. We were all exhausted, and many lay down in the rain and mud without food, fire, or water to drink. I never experienced such a bad night. I saw in the morning men sleeping

half-covered with mud, where the horses and men had tramped the earth. No Indians appeared, and we were glad of it. The next morning, we started by time. Got out into the open woods; made fires; dried ourselves; fired off our guns; loaded again; eat our breakfast, and commenced in earnest our march for home.

"While the army was in the neighborhood of the old village of Peoria, Capt. Craig had his boat lying in the lake, adjacent to Peoria. The boat was fortified, so that the fire of the enemy could not penetrate it. Craig was attacked on several occasions, by the Indians, but received no damage. . . .

"Our army reached Camp Russell in safety, after some weeks' march, where we were received with the honors of a salutation, booming from the Fort Chartres's cannon, and the roar of small arms. The troops, for the most part, were permitted to return to their homes; and Judy's company, wherein I was a private, was discharged entirely.

"Thus closed this short, energetic campaign, which, no doubt, did much service in preventing the Indians from marauding around the frontiers. Not a man was killed, and all were pleased with the services they performed for their country."—*Reynolds's Life and Times, 137 to 142.*

What an extraordinary story is this! A considerable army marches about 200 miles north to form a junction with another much larger, marching from the southeast, at Peoria, and, properly to expedite the business, the small army sends Captain Craig with his command up

the river, in boats, with provisions. The captain's company arrives at Peoria, in due time, and takes the village and burns it, and is quietly resting on its oars. The small army, in stead of going to Peoria, passes within a few miles of it, without sending over to see if Capt. Craig had arrived, or was in need of succor, or could tell where Hopkins, the commander of the larger army, was, marches up to the Indian village, about twenty miles above Peoria, finds no body there but a man and his wife, who are not combatants, but beg hard for their lives; but mercy reigns not in that crowd: they kill the man at once, and shoot many balls at the woman, but her sex, or her manitou, or what-not, protects her. The troops ascertain (but how they ascertain it is not stated) that the charmed individual is a woman; they cease to desire to do what it seems they were unable to do—to kill the woman. They afterward found an old cripple, that was unable to get out of the way, who was also killed. What few Indians had been there, except these three and some small children, escaped into the swamps, and across the river. Then, without hearing from Hopkins or Craig, they turned tail, the same day, and fled precipitately through mud and rain about 200 miles, to their starting-place, passing Peoria again, without sending over to ascertain the fate of Craig and his boats. And all this without their having lost a man or having obtained any knowledge as to where the Indian army was. For all that they knew, the Indians were fighting Craig at Peoria, or Hopkins in the Grand Prairie near by.

Again he says they camped on the 'bluffs of the river,

where we could obtain neither water to drink nor wood to burn'. This, I am positive is not correct. Every where along there the bluffs abound with wood. I have been over that ground, but, for fear of a mistake, I inquired of Mr. Josiah Fulton, who is acquainted with every foot of ground in that neighborhood, and was for years among those Indians, and he says there was then no place along there where wood was not plenty. I suspect Reynolds did not know where he was. In stead of being on the bluff, he was in the great prairie, near where Metamora or Cruger now stands.

He further says, "When we reached this village we heard nothing of Hopkins." Why should they, when they shot the first man who met them and attempted to speak to them? And on that account he says, "I presume it was not prudent to remain there any time." Then why not turn and meet Hopkins, as they knew the direction he was coming, in stead of fleeing pell-mell 200 miles, in another direction?

But to what place did they flee? He says to Camp Russell, which was about a mile north of Edwardsville, in Madison county. But he adds that they were saluted by the guns of Fort Chartres, which, however, happens to be an old dilapidated fort some forty or fifty miles from Camp Russell.

He calls this a short and energetic campaign, and claims great credit for their patriotic services. A more extraordinary hallucination is not on record, unless it was the case of the monomaniac who worked himself into the belief that his legs were glass, and was afraid to use them, lest they should break.

Of himself Reynolds says, on page 139, "In this small matter I never fired my gun, as I saw no occasion for it"; and on page 141, "I recollect all the booty I took was a deer-skin, sewed fast all around, and it full of corn. It rained in the evening, and my corn-sack got wet, which caused it to become as slippery as a fish; but I hung to it, and got it into camp that night." Yet for these services, and those in another campaign to Peoria, the next fall, in which no one fired a gun, he assumed the title of 'The old Ranger'; and on account of this title, not his services, he was enabled to obtain the best offices in the state, as long as he lived.

CHAPTER X.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. ERECTION AND DESTRUCTION OF FORT CLARK.

"In September, 1813, Gen. Howard marched with about 1400 men from Portage des Sioux for Peoria."—*Beck's Gazetteer, 144.* It required but little fighting to take possession of and hold the place, and they built a work which became of some notoriety in the vicinity, called Fort Clark, in honor of Gen. George Rogers Clark, the celebrated hero of Vincennes and Kaskaskia. This fort was a simple stockade, constructed by planting two rows

of logs firmly in the ground, near each other, and filling the space between with earth. This, of course, was not intended as a defense against artillery, of which the Indians had none. This fort was about a hundred feet square, with a ditch along each side. It did not stand with a side to the lake, but with a corner toward it. The corner farthest from the lake was on the upper side of Water street, near the intersection of the upper line of Water and Liberty streets. From there the west line ran diagonally across the intersection of Water and Liberty streets, nearly to the corner of the transportation warehouse, at the lower corner of Liberty and Water streets. At this corner was what I suppose military men would call a bastion; that is, there was a projecting corner made in the same manner as the side walls, and so constructed, as I imagine, as to accommodate a small cannon to command the ditches. And the same had no doubt been at the opposite corner; but when I came to the country, in November, 1831, there was no vestige of it remaining. In fact, at that time there was but little to show that there had ever been a fortification there, except some burnt posts along the west side, and a square of some ten or twelve feet at the south corner, and a ditch nearly filled up, on two sides of this square and on the west side of the fort. The fort had been burnt down to the embankment of this square and of the west side. After which the embankments had been mostly worn away by the rains and other means, until that part of the logs that was under ground had become charred posts. Some of them, however, had become entirely decayed and were gone.

On the other sides there was but little to be seen of logs or embankment. I lived where the transportation warehouse is for more than ten years, and when I leveled down the southerly angle, for my own convenience, one of those posts became high enough and was strong enough for a hitching-post, and I employed a blacksmith (Isaac Evans) to put hooks in it for that purpose. That post was used for that purpose until I removed from there in May, 1844. It was then taken up by Mr. Drown, and sawed up into walking-canes, and sold on speculation at fifty cents each.

Here is a subject worthy of the philosopher. This log remained in the ground, and in the weather, about thirty-one years, and was then mostly sound. Why did it so greatly outlast the others? This, it is true, was white or burr oak—I believe the latter,—and they are both generally durable wood, but not to this extent. Farmers are well satisfied to have either white or burr oak to last half of this time.

I have heard that this old fort was burnt in 1819; but the following letter from Col. Hubbard, in answer to one I had written to him, for information, seems to fix it in 1818.

CHICAGO DEC. 30TH, 1867.

C. BALLANCE, ESQ.

Dear Sir: In reply to yours of the 26th, I have to say that I was in Peoria the last days of 1818, for the first time, on my way to St. Louis passing there, returning about the 20th November, and wintering about one mile above Hennepin. It was my first year as an Indian trader.

As we rounded the point of the lake, above Peoria, on our down trip, we noticed that old Fort Clark was on fire, just blazing up. Reaching it, we found about 200 Indians congregated, enjoying a war-dance, painted hideously, with scalps on their spears and in their sashes, which they had taken from the heads of Americans, in the war with Great Britain, from 1812 to 1815. They were dancing, rehearsing their deeds of bravery, etc. These were the only people then there, or in that vicinity. I never knew of a place called Creve-Cœur. . . . .

I have a vivid recollection of my first arrival there. A warrior, noticing me (then a boy of 16), asked Mr. Des Champs, the chief of our expedition, who I was. He replied that I was his adopted son, just from Montreal; but this was not credited. The Indian said I was a young American, and seemed disposed to quarrel with me. Des Champs, wishing to mix with the Indians, left a man on the boat with me, telling him not to leave, but take care of me, not to go out. Through this man, I learned what the purport of the conversation was. The Indian remained at the bow of the boat talking to me through this man, who interpreted, saying, among other things, that I was a young American, and taking from his sash scalp after scalp, saying they were my nations, he saw I was frightened. I was never more so in my life, fairly trembling with fear. His last effort to insult me was taking a *long-haired* scalp, . . . [Here the Colonel describes the particular way in which the Indian made it very wet, and then proceeds] and then shaking it so that it sprinkled me in the face. In a moment all fear left me, and I seized Mr. Des Champs's double-barreled gun, took good aim, and fired. The man guarding me was standing about half way between us, and, just as I pulled trigger, he struck up the gun, and thereby saved the life of the Indian, and perhaps mine also. It produced great confusion, Des Champs and all our men running to their

boats. After a short consultation among the old traders, Des Champs ordered the boats to push out, and we descended the stream and went down three or four miles, and camped on the opposite side of the river. That was my first experience of hostile array with my red brethren.

Yours, etc.,

G. S. HUBBARD.

Since writing the above, I have talked with Josiah Fulton and William Blanchard, who first came here in 1819, and they are positive that they then found it on fire, and put it out. Perhaps they are both right. Perhaps when it was first set on fire it was only partly consumed. Earth having been filled in between the pickets, they would not burn fast, and the fire would be easily extinguished.

CHAPTER XI.

THE FIRST AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS AT PEORIA.

FROM the fall of 1813 until the spring of 1819, nearly six years, no white man attempted to reside at this place. It was wholly abandoned by the French population who had formerly lived here. No man who had lived here previous to the destruction of their village in 1813 ever attempted to reside here again, nor did any of their de-

scendants, except that one Fortier, whose wife was descended from one of the old settlers, was here for a while, as long as he pleased, and then went away. Not only Peoria, during that time, but all the country as far south as the distance of more than a hundred miles, as far east as the Wabash river, as far north as the north pole (except a garrison at Chicago and one at Green Bay), and as far west as the Pacific Ocean, was one broad, howling wilderness, inhabited only by savage beasts, and wild men, 'more savage far than they'.

In the spring of 1819, seven men, then living in a settlement called Shoal Creek, Clinton Co., Illinois, to wit,—Abner Eads, a Virginian by birth; I. Hersey, a New-Yorker; Seth Fulton and Josiah Fulton, Virginians; S. Daugherty, J. Davis and T. Russell, Kentuckians, made up a company to emigrate to Peoria, then called Fort Clark. Eads and Hersey came through by land, with two pack-horses. The others came up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, in what was then known, in the West, as a keel-boat.

Eads and Hersey, in coming through the trackless wilderness, struck the Illinois at or near the place where Meredosia now stands, in stead of Peoria; but, being there, they crossed over to the west side, and made their way some how, but how I know not, up the west side to Peoria. Before roads were opened and bridges built between Meredosia and Peoria, on the west side of the river, the country was one of the worst to travel in I have ever seen. On the west side there are broad, low lands, full of lakes, swamps, and lagoons, and all except the

lakes covered with dense forests and brushwood. And beyond all this is a row of hills of from half a mile to a mile wide, also covered with tall trees and underbrush. Moreover, a half-dozen streams must be crossed that are some times too deep to ford. Whereas, had they taken the east side of the river, they would have had but two streams of any note to cross, and might have had smooth, dry prairie the most of the way. But the country was not then known. So Lewis and Clark crossed the Rocky Mountains at so high and cold a place that in *June* there was more snow on the mountains than they could surmount, and they had to go back to a valley, where they could find provender for their horses, until the snow melted. But now people understand the country better.

Eads and Hersey, however, succeeded in getting through to Peoria, on the 17th day of April, 1819, and pitched their tents against some of the remaining timbers of Fort Clark, which had been burnt by the Indians. On the 19th Eads, meeting with a deserter from Fort Dearborn, at Chicago, coming down the river in a canoe, left Hersey in charge of their horses and camp, and passed down the river with the deserter, to see what had become of his comrades and keel-boat. A few miles below, however, in the neighborhood of Lamarsh creek, he met them, in good health and spirits, and turned back with them, and all arrived safely at Peoria the same day.

Their tents and boats served them for shelter and habitation until they could fit up two cabins, that some one, perhaps the United States soldiers, had put up, but had

not covered nor finished. These pioneers immediately planted fifteen or twenty acres of corn and potatoes.

In the latter part of May Mr. Eads started to Shoal Creek for his family. About the first of June he arrived there, and by the eighth or tenth of June he had his little affairs closed up, and his wife and three children, and as much household and kitchen furniture as a pioneer deems indispensable, in his wagon, and all on the way to Peoria. He had now learned more of the country, and 'struck a bee-line' north through the high prairie, and came to the Illinois at the high land on which Pekin has since been built. He followed the river up to the next high land, where the village of Wesley stands, and there crossed over, and soon got to Peoria. His object in crossing there probably was to avail himself of the aid of any Indians or Indian canoes there might be there to aid him in crossing the river; for that was in those days a trading-post, and there were generally both Indians and canoes to be found there.

On or about the 10th of June, Capt. Jude Warner arrived here from St. Louis, with a keel-boat loaded with salt and provisions, and a seine for fishing in the lake. His company consisted of Isaac De Boice, James Goff, William Blanchard, David Barnes, Charles Sargent, and Theodore Sargent. They spent the season catching and salting fish, in bulk, as is some times done with pork when barrels are scarce.

But little, in those days, was known of this part of the country; and, had ever so much been known about it, it was almost inaccessible to other parts of the world.

There were then neither roads, bridges, nor canals, and it was a long and tedious way to come down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Illinois, or by the lakes, and down a hundred miles overland to the navigable waters of the Mississippi or Illinois. Besides, for a large portion of the United States it was several hundred miles to the lakes or the Ohio. The consequence was that our country filled up slowly: so slowly that, in 1825, when Peoria county was organized, the whole country coming within its jurisdiction, including the whole north half of the state—Galena and Chicago,—contained only a population of 1236 souls.

In those days people, in speaking of coming to this place, called it going or coming to Fort Clark. And the legislature, in the act creating Peoria county, called it "An act to form a new county out of the country in the vicinity of Fort Clark." But they called the county Peoria, and located the county-seat on a particular quarter-section; and when the county commissioners had the town-site surveyed, they called it Peoria, and in a short time Fort Clark was dropped, and the place was universally called Peoria. This name is said to have been derived from a tribe of Indians, who took possession of the country about Lake Peoria, and transmitted to it their name; but travelers and historians have not agreed in the spelling of the name. I have seen it spelt Piorias, Proraria and Proneroa. Hennepin wrote it Pimitouii; but this, I suppose, is another name given to it (as Peoria was) after a tribe of Indians, who were destroyed or driven away by the Peorias. This word is also variously

spelt: I have seen it terminate with one i, with two i's, and with three. There were Indians here, when I came, who called the place Cock-meek; but what they meant by it I never knew. The French some times called it O-Pa, their mode of pronouncing Au Pied, the foot, meaning the foot of the lake. However, in old times they called their town, which was about a mile and a half above the outlet, Peoria; and when they began to build at the outlet, they called that place La ville de Maillet (after John B. Maillet, who first built there), or the New Village of Peoria; but in process of time, when the old village had become entirely abandoned, the name Peoria became transferred to the new village, and so it came to be generally called, until the building of Fort Clark.

CHAPTER XII.

STATE OF ILLINOIS AND SUNDRY COUNTIES; INCLUDING PEORIA, ORGANIZED.

On the 18th of April, 1818, Congress passed "An act to enable the people of the Illinois Territory to frame a constitution and state government, and for the admission of said state into the Union."

On the 26th of August, 1818, a convention met at Kaskaskia to form a constitution for the State of Illinois.

Under a constitution made by this convention the state government went into operation, and so continued until the first day of April, 1848, when the present constitution, which had been adopted by a convention in the previous August, went into operation.

The first constitution was made by men living in the southern part of the state—that portion that, for some whimsical reason, is called Egypt. Not a man was in the convention that formed it from any portion of the state north of Madison and Crawford counties. The counties represented were the following, and by the following delegates:

St. Clair county,—John Messenger and Jas. Lemen, jr.
Randolph " —George Fisher and Elias Kent Kane.
Madison " —B. Stephenson, Joseph Borong, and Abraham Prickett.
Gallatin " —Michael Jones, Leonard White, and Adolphus Frederick Hubbard.
Johnson " —Hezekiah West and Wm. McFatridge.
Edwards " —Seth Gard and Levi Compton.
White " —Willis Hargrave and Wm. McHenry.
Monroe " —Caldwell Carns and Enoch Moore.
Pope " —Samuel Omelveny and —— Ferguson.
Jackson " —Conrad Will and James Hall, jr.
Crawford " —Joseph Kitchell and Ed. N. Cullom.
Bond " —Thomas Kirkpatrick and Samuel G. Morse.
Union " —William Echols and John Whiteacre.
Washington " —Andrew Bankson.
Franklin " —Isham Harrison and Thomas Roberts.

William C. Greenup, Secretary of the Convention.

We have recently elected and have now in session a convention to amend or remodel our constitution, which consists of eighty-four members: sixteen of them are from the country which then composed the above-named counties, and sixty-eight of them from the residue of the state, which was then a 'desert wild' and had no voice in the convention that formed our present constitution. What a mighty change of jurisdiction is here. Although that portion in the south which originally gave law to the state has greatly increased in population, yet the North has increased in so much greater ratio that the then wilderness gives now about four-fifths of the delegates, against one-fifth given by the then populated part of the state.

As proofs of all the French claims were made at Edwardsville, and many of our first deeds were recorded there, this is, perhaps, a proper place to explain why that was so. The first governor of the Illinois territory was Gen. St. Clair. He, by proclamation, divided the whole territory into three counties, and so it remained until the 14th of September, 1812, when Governor Edwards, by proclamation, established the county of Madison, with the following boundaries, to wit: "Beginning on the Mississippi, to run with the second township above Cahokia east, until it strikes the dividing line between the Illinois and Indiana territories; thence with the said dividing line to the line of Upper Canada; thence with said line to the Mississippi; thence down the Mississippi to the place of beginning." There may be some doubt as to the meaning of this boundary; but, by any construction that can be put upon it, it in-

cluded Peoria, and more than three-fourths of the state, and Edwardsville having been laid off and become the county-seat of this great county is the reason of some of our land documents being found at that place. But a few of them were recorded in Pike county; that is because, on the 31st of January, 1821, Pike county was established by an act of the legislature, with the following boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of the Illinois river, and running thence up the middle of said river to the forks of the same; thence up the south fork of said river until it strikes the state line of Indiana; thence north with said line to the north boundary-line of this state; thence west to the west boundary-line of the state; and thence with said line to the place of beginning."

On the 28th of January, 1823, by an act of the legislature, the County of Fulton was carved out of the above territory, and for county purposes the territory since composing Peoria county was attached, so that at the following election the people (what few there were of them) had to go down to Lewistown to vote, and by a little management beat the Fultonites in electing a sheriff: Abner Eads beating Ossian M. Ross, the Fulton man.

On the 13th of January, 1825, the legislature passed a law establishing the County of Peoria, with the following boundaries, to wit: "Beginning where the line between townships eleven and twelve north intersects the Illinois river; thence west with said line to the range-line between ranges four and five east; thence south with said line to the range-line between townships seven and eight;

thence east to the line between ranges five and six; thence south to the middle of the main channel of the Illinois river; thence up along the middle of the main channel of said river to the place of beginning."

The second section of said bill, as a temporary arrangement, added, for county purposes, all the land north of township 20 of the third principal meridian, and between the said third meridian and the Illinois, which had been a part of Sangamon county.

The third section locates the county-seat on the north-east quarter of section nine, of town eight north of the base line, and range eight east of the fourth principal meridian, which still contains the best-improved part of the city.

The ninth section attaches, in the same manner as is provided by section two, all the land north of Peoria county, the Illinois river, and the Kankakee river.

CHAPTER XIII.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

THE first county commissioners under that law were William Holland, Joseph Smith, and Nathan Dillon. They met at Peoria, on the eighth day of March, 1825. They appointed Norman Hyde their clerk, and Aaron

Hawley their treasurer. On the first day they made an order that the county-seat be established at Peoria. (This was nugatory, for the act of the legislature had fixed that.) Also, that a court-house be erected, twenty feet square, and nine feet between the floor and the joists; and a clerk's office, fourteen feet square. But at the next meeting of the board, which was held four days after, it was ordered that those orders be rescinded,—probably because some one suggested to them that they had no money, for they immediately passed an order "that all property subject to a county tax be taxed one-half of one per cent. on the value of the same."

No such court-house or jail were ever built. The present court-house, with rooms in it for clerks' offices, was built in 1834. Previously to this the court was held in a small log building, about 16 by 18 feet square, at or near where the Fort Clark Mill stands.

On the 8th of June Hyde resigned the office of clerk, and John Dixon was appointed in his stead. On this day the order for a one-half per cent. tax was rescinded, and a tax of one per cent. laid.

On the 7th of December, 1825, the county was divided into three election precincts. One was called the Chicago precinct, and Alexander Wolcott, John Kinzie, and John Baptiste Beaubien, all inhabitants of Chicago, were appointed judges.

This was called the County Commissioners' Court, and its powers were similar to those now exercised by the Board of Supervisors.

On the 5th of September, 1826, Nathan Dillon, William

Holland and John Hamlin appeared and qualified as county commissioners. John Dixon still clerk, and Samuel Fulton sheriff.

At the June term, 1827, John Hamlin, George Sharp and Henry Thomas were county commissioners; but clerk and sheriff remained as before. Here it should be observed that none of the first set of county commissioners were elected from Peoria county proper, but from the country attached to it for judicial purposes. Of the second set, one (John Hamlin) was from Peoria county proper, but of the last set all were from Peoria county proper.

On the 4th of August, 1828, Orin Hamlin was sheriff, and Isaac Egmon and Francis Thomas were elected county commissioners, who with George Sharp now composed the board.

On the 1st of May, 1830, Stephen Stillman was appointed clerk, in place of John Dixon, resigned.

On the 7th of June, 1830, Isaac Waters was appointed to take the census of the county proper, and found the increase in five years to be 556.

This record shows that at the September term George Sharp, John Hamlin and *Stephen French* composed the board of county commissioners; Stephen Stillman, clerk; Henry B. Stillman, sheriff; and Resolved Cleveland, coroner.

On the 4th of April, 1831, Resolved Cleveland was elected county commissioner, in place of George Sharp, deceased.

On the 6th of June, 1831, Isaac Waters was appointed clerk, in place of Stephen Stillman, resigned.

On the 5th of November, 1831, John Coyle was elected county commissioner, in place of John Hamlin, resigned.

On the 5th of March, 1832, Aquila Wren was elected county commissioner, in place of Stephen French, resigned.

At the September term, John Coyle, Aquila Wren and Edwin S. Jones sat as county commissioners, and John W. Caldwell acted as sheriff.

At an election on the 4th of August, 1834, John Coyle, Orin Hamlin and Andrew Tharp were elected county commissioners, and William Compher sheriff.

On the 30th of April, 1835, William Compher was appointed to take the census, and found the increase in five years to be 1407.

On the 1st of June, 1835, William Mitchell was appointed clerk, in the place of Isaac Waters, removed.

At an election held on the 6th of October, 1835, Thomas Bryant was elected sheriff, in place of William Compher, resigned.

At the September term, 1836, Aquila Wren, Samuel T. McKean and William J. Phelps took their seats as county commissioners, Mitchell as clerk, and Bryant as sheriff.

At the September term, 1838, Clark D. Powell, Smith Frye and Moses Harlan took their seats as county commissioners; same clerk and sheriff.

On the 10th of January, 1840, William Hale was elected a county commissioner, in place of Moses Harlan, who had been elected to the legislature. A. W. Harkness

was appointed to take the census, and found an increase in five years of 3842.

To trace the proceedings of the county commissioners any further down toward our own times would, I presume, be uninteresting to one whose object is to read the history of the City of Peoria.

The civil list for 1844 was as follows:

John D. Caton, Judge of the Circuit Court.

Benjamin F. Fridley, State's Attorney.

Thomas P. Smith,
Clementius Ewalt, } County Commissioners.
William Dawson,

William M. Dodge, County Treasurer and Assessor.

Julius A. Johnson, Collector.

George C. McFadden, Surveyor.

Charles Kettelle, Recorder.

Smith Frye, Sheriff.

Chester Hamlin, Coroner.

John C. Heyl, Public Administrator.

William Mitchell, Clerk of both courts.

William H. Fessenden, Probate Justice.

Dennis Blakeley, Thomas Bryant and Jonathan K. Cooper, Justices of the Peace.

William Weis, Thomas Mercer, Daniel E. Oakley and Jacob Silzell, Constables.

The mode of governing counties by three county commissioners was continued in Peoria up to April 8th, 1850. Previously to that date the legislature passed a law establishing what is called 'Township Organization'; that is, a law erecting each township into a sort of little munici-

pality, with the right to regulate its own internal affairs to some extent, and with the right to be represented in a larger municipal body for the whole county, called the Board of Supervisors. But this law was unpopular among western people, and to get the legislature to adopt it, it became necessary to add a clause to the law that it should not take effect in any county until a majority of the legal voters of the county, at any general election, should vote for it. The eastern people generally voted for the law, and the western and southern people generally voted against it; but the foreigners, not being acquainted with either mode, followed as their leaders went. Some counties adopted it, but the larger portion did not. The door being open all the time, however, for those objecting to come into the measure, and being closed against any after having adopted it returning to the old plan, and the new plan furnishing more offices than the other, which, to Americans, is an unanswerable argument in favor of any measure, the thing has been so managed that, in a little less than twenty years, sixty-six counties have come into the measure; leaving only thirty-six which still stand out, and refuse to adopt the system. Peoria county was one of the first that adopted the system; and hence the records show that on the 8th of April, 1850, the first board of supervisors assembled at Peoria, and the board was organized with the following members, viz: Stephen C. Wheeler, John Combs, Samuel Dimon, Josiah Fulton, Charles S. Strother, Jonathan Brassfield, Benjamin Slane, Isaac Brown, L. B. Cornwell, William W. Church, Clark W. Stanton and

David R. Gregory, Supervisors; and Charles Kettelle, Clerk. Samuel Dimon was elected Chairman of the board, for one year.

By such a board, subject to have the members changed at every election, we have been governed from that day to this.

At present the following persons compose the board, viz: John Waugh, Horace G. Anderson, D. M. Baty, Joseph Burdett, Peter Cline, Samuel Caldwell, Seth W. Freeman, John W. Fuller, Louis Green, James H. Hart, Emil Huber, L. F. Jones, George Jenkins, Albert F. Lincoln, Engelbert Nader, Ralph Phillips, William Rowcliff, Samuel S. Slane, Edgar Ayres, Cyrus Tucker, Otto Triebel, M. B. Van Patten, E. G. Webster, Patrick Ward, D. C. Wheeler, and Lorin Wilder. Col. John D. McClure, Clerk.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE FIRST CIRCUIT COURT. TRIAL OF NOMAQUE, ETC.

The first circuit court ever held in Peoria was on the 14th of November, A.D. 1825. John York Sawyer acted as judge, John Dixon as clerk, Samuel Fulton as sheriff, and John Turney as attorney-general *pro tem.* The grand jurors were John Hamlin, Stephen French, Abner Cooper, George Love, Elias P. Avery, Thomas Dillon, Henry

Thomas, George Harlan, Isaac Waters, Augustus Langworthy, George Sharp, Seth Wilson, John Cline, George Cline, Isaac Perkins, John Philips, and Major Donaho.

At this term of the court, Nomaque, an Indian, was tried for the murder of a Frenchman, and found guilty, and sentenced to suffer death; but the case was carried to the Supreme Court, and the judgment reversed, and a new trial granted, as any one may see by looking into Breese's Reports, which may be found in most of the old law-offices. The Peorians had no jail, and they got tired of the expense of guarding Nomaque, and finally let him go. The jurors who tried him were Austin Crocker, Allen S. Daugherty, Alexander McNaughten, Walter Dillon, Henry Neely, William Woodrow, Peter Dumont, Aaron Reed, Abram Galentine, Josiah Fulton, Cornelius Doty, and David Matthis.

That this Indian was guilty of murder there has never been any doubt; but that his trial was conducted in a disorderly and shameful manner is apparent from the report of the case above referred to; but more irregularities than are there named, I have no doubt, occurred, for all the old settlers speak of it as a drunken proceeding. The record of the circuit court does not show what irregularities occurred, but the judge entered several fines against the lawyers for 'a contempt of court', without stating in what the contempt consisted.

Many stories have been told about this Indian by the old settlers, and some of them have been contradicted by others; and because I do not know the truth, I omit them all. The old settlers even disagree as to how he

came to his death. He left the neighborhood of Peoria before I came here, and was never in the place afterward, to my knowledge. He probably was afraid of Peorians. When I came here the story had got to be an old one, and no body cared to punish him if he had come back; but every one that I heard speak of him spoke of him as a very bad man. He had no friends here.

A remarkable feature in this case is that William S. Hamilton, a son of the celebrated Alexander Hamilton, appeared in defense of the Indian. At the time of this trial I believe that he lived in Springfield, though at one time he lived in Galena. He never resided at Peoria, but was employed by the county commissioners of Peoria county, in 1826, to survey the town, now city, of Peoria, and did survey the first sixteen blocks; and he, or the commissioners for whom he acted, gave names to the following streets, which names they still bear: Water, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Liberty, Fulton, Main, Hamilton, and Fayette. He at the same time, under authority of the surveyor-general at St. Louis, surveyed the 'French claims' of Peoria; but as his survey was not approved, it has cut no figure in the many suits about those claims.

CHAPTER XV.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. JUDGE YOUNG, FORD, ETC.

JOHN YORK SAWYER had ceased to be judge before I came to Peoria, and Richard M. Young was occupying that honorable position. It may be amusing to the present generation to be informed that in 1832 and 1833 the Hon. R. M. Young's judicial circuit included Quincy, Peoria, Rock Island, Galena, Ottawa, and Chicago: in fact, all the country which now constitutes the counties of Pike, Adams, Brown, Schuyler, Fulton, McDonough, Hancock, Henderson, Warren, Knox, Peoria, Marshall, Stark, Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, Putnam, Bureau, Lasalle, DeKalb, Lee, Whiteside, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Ogle, Boone, McHenry, Lake, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Grundy, and Will.

Here was a country large enough for a kingdom, and as fertile as the Garden of Eden, but almost destitute of population. The Indians were compelled, partly by the force of arms, and partly by public opinion, to leave the country in 1832, and there were but few white men in all this tract of country at that time, and that few had not been here long enough to have started much litigation. In the spring of 1833, three days were ample time to clear the docket in Peoria, Ottawa, or Chicago, although there were then but two terms of court held in a year.

In those days there were but few roads or bridges any where in the north half of the state. No road of any kind had then been opened from Peoria to Chicago. In fact, the most essential requisites of a good judge, for this circuit, were to own a good horse and be a good rider. These two requisites Judge Young possessed in a high degree. He was a fine-looking, complaisant Kentuckian, who possessed not much legal learning, but a fine, high-blooded Kentucky horse, and knew well how to ride him.

In May, 1833, he made his appearance in the Village of Peoria, and announced that he was on his way to Chicago to hold court. He had traveled about 130 miles, from Quincy, where he lived, and had to travel, as the trail then run, not less than 170 miles further, to hold the first court on his circuit. Just think of a horseback ride of at least 300 miles to hold a three days' court!

On this occasion I attended court at Chicago, partly to seek practice as a lawyer, and partly to see the country. So poor was Peoria in the way of horses, that I could not borrow nor hire a horse in Peoria to ride to Chicago. I went to the country and applied to a farmer who had a drove of horses, but the only broken ones he had he wished to use, and, as a matter of necessity, I took one 'on which man had never sat', and rode him to Chicago and back. I asked him why he had not broken his horses. He said he was too old, and his boys were too young. He made me welcome to the horse, but yet remonstrated against my taking him; for, said he, I am afraid he will break your neck. I told him I was

born and raised where they made horses as a business, and I would risk him, if I could get on. He and his oldest son held him, until I had mounted him, and then let him go. He went furiously, some times end foremost, and some times side foremost, but generally in the direction of Chicago; and ultimately, in a little more than three days, got there.

Times have greatly changed since then. We can now go to Chicago by canal, or, what is much better, by either of four different railroads, in from seven and a half to ten hours; and in stead of three days, twice a year, to try what cases arise in court, it now requires a court to be in session nearly all the time to transact the necessary business. Our Peoria judge now, in stead of traveling over a third of the state to do the business of his circuit, has a circuit composed only of Peoria and Stark counties, and Stark is a small rural county, requiring but little of his time.

The above-named Judge Young deserves a further notice; and yet it is doubtful whether his memory will be much benefited by it, for his sun set in clouds. He was a very popular man, and a man of sufficient ability to fill any office respectably. He was at one time Judge of the Supreme Court, and for a term of six years he was in the United States Senate. At another time he was Clerk of the House of Representatives of Congress. For a number of years before his death he was a claim-agent, in Washington City. But for some time before his death he was confined in an asylum for maniacs. Of his last days I will not speak, because of them I know nothing,

only as I have been informed by a brother of his, since he has passed away. If his story is true, Judge Young, who was once one of the most popular men in Illinois, passed many a day and night in a dungeon, under the torturing hands of fiends in human shape, in the great capital of the nation; and yet for a long time so secretly that a brother, living in that city, had no suspicion of it. He lived and died poor; but had he lived until now, and held on to certain property which has been sold by his wife since his death, he would be rich. One piece of property, which he obtained in Omaha as a fee, is said to be worth many thousand dollars.

After Judge Young was elected to the United States Senate, Thomas Ford was our judge until he was elected Governor of the state. He did not, as office-holders now-a-days do, amass a fortune, but he lived and died a poor man. After his gubernatorial term had expired, he removed to Peoria, and attempted to support his wife and children by the practice of the law; but his health failed, and his wife, while rendering the kind attentions usually rendered by a good wife to a dying husband, was suddenly taken ill and died. Soon afterward he died. During this illness his family was furnished with food, and the expense of his funeral was borne, by a company of gentlemen, all of whom but two had been his political opponents, without his knowing, while alive, whence the aid came; and all his children but one, who was then about grown, were raised and educated by men who were his political opponents while alive.

To show the changes that have been made in our

county officers, and give a list of all who have held office under authority of the county, would alone require a volume. I will simply add to what has been said above that, at present,

Sabin D. Puterbaugh is Judge of the Circuit Court;
George Puterbaugh, State's Attorney;
George A. Wilson, Clerk of the Circuit Court;
Samuel Gill, Sheriff of Peoria county;
Edwin C. Silliman, County Treasurer.
John C. Yates, Judge of the County Court;
Col. John D. McClure, Clerk of the County Court;
Nicholas E. Worthington, Superintendent of Public Schools.

CHAPTER XVI.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN OF PEORIA.

At first, so few people were in the bounds of what is now the City of Peoria, that they were governed as a rural district, without municipal organization. On 1st of March, 1831, the act of the legislature under which the Town of Peoria finally became incorporated as a town was passed; but, for some reason, I do not remember what, the people did not avail themselves of it at that time.

On the 18th of July, 1835, the citizens of Peoria, by a

vote then taken pursuant to such statute, became incorporated—not as a city, but as a town,—and elected as trustees Rudolphus Rouse, Chester Hamlin, Rufus P. Burlingame, Charles W. McClallen, and Isaac Evans. It seems, from the record, that they met the same day, and elected said Rouse as President; and, as said Evans declined serving, they elected Cyrus Leland in his place.

On the 23d of the same month, they met at the store of Rufus P. Burlingame and elected Cyrus Leland as Clerk. At the same time, they passed a resolution that the boundary of the town should embrace an area of one square mile; also, at that meeting, they appointed said Burlingame for their Treasurer.

On the 18th of July, 1836, there was an election held, and the judges of the election certified how many votes each candidate had received, but did not say who were elected; but as the five highest on the list were Henry W. Cleveland, Chester Hamlin, Thomas Philips, George B. Parker, and J. D. Shewalter, they seem quietly to have taken their seats, without any decision of the case, and Henry W. Cleveland seems to have taken his seat as President, without an election (at least, the record fails to show that he was elected); and some time after J. L. Marsh takes place in the record as Clerk, without any thing to show what right he had there.

On the 18th February, 1837, Hon. George C. Bestor appears in the board, without any thing to show how he came there.

On the 8th of March, Hon. E. N. Powell is made Clerk by resolution.

On the 31st of July, 1837, without any reason given in the record to show why, nine in stead of five trustees were elected, to wit: James C. Armstrong, John C. Caldwell, Thomas J. Hurd, Samuel H. McCrory, William Frisby, Samuel S. Veacock, Rudolphus Rouse, and Cyrus Leland. On the same day they met, and after several ballotings without coming to any choice, they adjourned to August 26th, when the strife was renewed, and resulted in the election of Dr. Rouse. What principle, political or pecuniary, was involved in this controversy is more than I can divine.

To repeat more of this town record up to the time the city charter was adopted, and the city government went into operation, I suppose would be uninteresting to the reader.

It is the hight of the ambition of all northwestern villages to become cities. It is a matter of vanity with the people to have the village called a city; and every little third-rate politician looks forward with as ardent expectation to the day when he can be called an alderman, or mayor, as a male urchin does to the day when he can don a pair of pantaloons, or an older stripling when he can turn out a mustache. Hence all our villages, before there is any occasion for it, and before they are well able to bear the expense of a city organization, become incorporated as cities; and therefore, wherever we go in this region, we hear of cities.

At the time this town organization was abolished, we had a population of not more than 1600. We had but little municipal business to do, and were too poor to en-

dure much taxation; yet this system was abolished, to give way for a more expensive one, for no other reason, that I know of, but to have our village dignified with the title of city, and ourselves (as many as could attain to that honor) to be called alderman and mayor.

CHAPTER XVII.

CITY ORGANIZATION, TAXATION, ETC.

PEORIA was governed as a town, by a board of trustees, as is above set forth, until the 5th of May, 1845, when it assumed the style and forms of a city.

The legislature had passed "An act to incorporate the City of Peoria"; but the Council of Revision, either because they did not approve it or because they forgot it, did not sign it. Afterward, Thompson Campbell, as Secretary of State, appended to it the following certificate: "This bill having been laid before the Council of Revision, and ten days not having intervened before the adjournment of the General Assembly, and said bill not having been returned with the objections of the Council on the first day of the present session of the General Assembly, the same has become a law." This statute and certificate are both without date. But there is a statement prefixed to the copy before me, which says it

was "In force December 3d, 1844"; from which I infer that that ought to be the date of the certificate.

By the first article of this charter, the people living within the following boundaries, viz., "fractional section nine, fractional section ten, the south half of section four, and fractional section three, in township eight north, of range eight east of the fourth principal meridian, and to the middle of the Illinois river and Lake Peoria," were incorporated into a body corporate and politic, to have perpetual succession.

The second article provided for the election of eight aldermen for two years, but they were to be divided into two classes by lot, so that one-half should vacate their seats at the end of the first year, and their successors to be then elected; and ever after, four to be elected every year. All the qualifications they were required to have were six months' residence in the city, and to be twenty-one years of age.

The third article provided for the election of a mayor for one year at a time, and whose qualifications should be one year's residence in the city, and to be twenty-one years of age.

The fourth article provided that "All free white male inhabitants, over the age of twenty-one years, who are entitled to vote for state officers, and who shall have been actual residents of said city six months next preceding said election, shall be entitled to vote for city officers."

The fifth article enumerates and confers all the usual powers that are conferred on cities, with these important provisos: "provided that no sum or sums of money shall

be borrowed at a greater interest than six per cent. per annum, nor shall the interest on the aggregate, on all the sums borrowed and outstanding, ever exceed one-half of the city revenue arising from taxes assessed on real property, within the limits of the corporation."

The sixth article confers on the mayor the usual executive authority, and in addition provides that "He shall be commissioned by the governor as a justice of the peace for said city, and as such shall be a conservator of the peace in said city, and shall have power and authority to administer oaths," etc. "He shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all cases arising under the ordinances of the corporation, and concurrent jurisdiction with all other justices of the peace in all civil and criminal cases within the limits of the city, arising under the laws of the state."

The seventh article provides a mode of opening streets, and assessing damages in favor of those injured. Also, it authorizes them to assess a special tax on lots to pave streets and sidewalks in front of them.

The eighth contains various ordinary provisions, and winds up by a provision that this charter shall be submitted to a vote of the people, with a provision that if a majority of the people should vote for it, it should immediately take effect, as a law; but if a majority of the votes should be against it, it should be void.

On the 22d of April, 1845, I find the following entry in the old Peoria town records: "Whereas, it appears by the returns of the election, held at the court-house on the 21st of April, A.D. 1845, that one hundred and sixty-two votes were received in favor of the adoption of the city

charter, entitled an act incorporating the City of Peoria, and thirty-five votes against the adoption thereof, which election was held in pursuance of the 16th section of article 8th of said act, said charter is therefore adopted by the citizens of said town:

"*Resolved*, That an election be held at the court-house, on Monday, the 28th instant, being the 4th Monday of April instant, for one Mayor and eight Aldermen, for the City of Peoria, agreeably to the provisions of the city charter."

And afterward, without date, on page 379, I find this entry:

"At an election held at the court-house, on the 28th day of April, A.D. 1845, for the purpose of electing one Mayor and eight Aldermen for the City of Peoria, to serve until their successors are chosen, the following persons, having received the greatest number of votes, were declared duly elected, to wit:

"For Mayor, William Hale.

"For Aldermen, Jesse L. Knowlton, Peter Sweat, Charles Kettelle, Clark Cleveland, Chester Hamlin, John Hamlin, Hervey Lightner. Jacob Gale and A. P. Bartlett each received 168 votes, they being the next highest candidates: consequently there was no choice."

On the 5th day of May, 1845, Hale was sworn in as Mayor, and all the others, excluding Gale and including Bartlett, as Aldermen. This was done, as the record afterward explains, because the Mayor drew lots between Messrs. Gale and Bartlett, and Bartlett drew the office.

At the same term, Jesse L. Knowlton was appointed City Clerk.

On the 13th of February, 1847, the charter was amended, and, among other things, the boundary was changed, and in future the boundary was to be as follows: "All that district of country in fractional section sixteen, fractional section nine, fractional section ten, and the south half of sections three and four, in township eight north of the base line, and of range eight east of the fourth principal meridian, and to the middle of the Illinois river and Lake Peoria, are hereby declared be within the bounds of the City of Peoria."

When the city government, under the said charter, went into operation, in May, 1845, they went to passing ordinances for every imaginable thing, until, in five or six years, those ordinances had become so numerous and complicated that a revision and compilation was deemed necessary.

Accordingly, on the 15th of April, 1851, an ordinance was passed entitled "An ordinance establishing the Revised Ordinances of the City of Peoria." This ordinance is divided into twenty-nine chapters, called ordinances, and it occupies 96 octavo pages; but as it contains only the usual provisions concerning the internal police of the city, such as grades, markets, licenses, taxes, etc., it is perhaps unnecessary to detail those provisions here. The whole, when examined carefully, forces upon the reader the idea that the mania for taxation, that has greatly afflicted our country, particularly the Northwest, had most violently seized our aldermen. They seem to look upon taxation as the great business of life, and the ability to squeeze the greatest amount of taxes out of a

given amount of property as the highest evidence of political ability.

When our city was first organized, the taxes were laid on lightly; but, as it was found that people would stand it, they were increased, until now, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, we have actually paid taxes to considerably over a quarter of a million dollars. We have paid

Taxes assessed for general city purposes	$60,129.46
To pay interest on railroad bonds	26,724.21
One-mill school tax, to pay interest on school bonds	7,002.94
School tax assessed for school purposes	33,889.71
Bounty tax to redeem and pay interest on bounty bonds	21,008.83
Taxes assessed to pay interest on water bonds	26,724.21
Taxes to pay coupons on bonds taken by Wm. Smith	700.00
Tax levied on city for state purposes	59,405.60
Road and bridge tax	6,150.79
Tax levied on the city for county purposes	56,403.78
Dog tax,	133.00
Total,	298,272.53

But this falls far short of being our whole tax. We pay many thousand dollars annually to build churches, support preachers, Sunday schools, foreign missions, etc. We also pay taxes to a considerable amount that do not appear in the above table, because they are not collected in the usual way. For instance, the sidewalks are all re-

quired to be graded and planked by the owner of adjoining property, and some times brick pavements are required to be made in the same way. If the owner fails or refuses to do it, city officials perform the work and collect off him the amount. Many people who do business in the city have to pay for a license to do it, which is nothing more nor less than a tax. And it is the most oppressive kind of a tax. Those who pay it put it, with interest and commissions, on their customers. It can easily be shown that every dollar the butchers pay for the privilege of selling meat, in the market-house, costs the people ten dollars in the enhanced price of meat we have in consequence to pay.

The people have never failed to vote for any tax, or the sale of any bonds that has been proposed, nor will they, as long as a majority of the voters pay none of the taxes. The city has voted for the following bonds:

For the water works	$320,000
For railroads	360,000
School bonds	84,000
Bounty bonds	136,000
Three-fifths of the bonds issued to Peoria and Hannibal R.R.	45,000
Three-fifths of the bonds issued by the county to build jail	49,500
Three-fifths of the bonds by same to build almshouse	21,000
Three-fifths of the bonds voted for the Peoria and Rock Island R.R.	60,000

Ninety-five one-hundredths of bonds voted by township of Peoria, for Peoria, Atlanta and Decatur R.R. 95,000

In the above cases, where three-fifths of the amount of the bonds are stated, the bonds had been issued by the County of Peoria, and three-fifths is supposed to be the amount the city has to pay. The last item was voted for by the Township of Peoria, which contains a few families that are not in the city proper, but the city will have to pay nearly all of them. We have not paid any taxes as yet on the $100,000 voted for the Peoria and Rock Island Railroad, nor for the $100,000 for the Peoria, Atlanta and Decatur Railroad, but we will have to do so next year, which will add about $14,000 more to our taxes.

In the sale of these bonds we never obtained, in cash, the amount they call for: partly because the most of men have use, in their business, for all the money they can command, but mainly because capitalists are suspicious of municipal corporations, and the greater their doubts of their punctuality, the less they are willing to give. Besides, our bonds have to be sold in the East, where money is plentier than it is here. We have consequently, in addition to a loss of fifteen to twenty per cent., to pay the expense of printing the bonds, to pay a broker for making sales, and afterward, for paying interest; but however little we get for a thousand-dollar bond, we have to pay interest on a thousand, and ultimately pay the thousand itself.

That we have been greatly benefited by the sale of

railroad bonds is clear and indisputable; but another thing is equally clear, and equally indisputable: that there is a point beyond which this thing can not be carried with impunity; and that point, I think, is now reached. If we strain our credit any further, it will be ruined, and with it, the prospects of our city. We are riding on the stream of an inflated currency, and but for the mania above referred to, which blinds men's eyes, all men could see that when we return to specie payments, and rents and every thing else are reduced to one-half their present price, we can not pay the interest on what we now owe, to say nothing of the expense of the city government. If we stop now, and contract no more debts, the interest on what we have contracted, including what will be required to finish the water works, will be about $300,000. When we come to specie payments, the whole City of Peoria can not be rented for enough to pay this sum. Then is not the whole city confiscated? If those who have supported the city government have all their property taken by the bondholders, who will support the city government in future?

I remember when the rage was all the other way. So strong was the popular clamor against taxation, that the mere politician did not dare to vote for the most necessary tax, for fear of losing his place. Now it is changed, and none but the most independent would dare to vote against any tax proposed, however unnecessary; and when my friends shall see these remarks, I fear some of them will stand aghast at my disregard of the *best interests*

of the public, or, what now seems to mean the same thing, public opinion.

"Truths would you tell to save a sinking land,
All fear, none aid you, and few understand."

The mayor of the city was intended by the charter to be a judicial officer and an influential personage, and the first mayors exercised judicial authority; but the Supreme Court, in process of time, decided that mayors were precluded by our constitution, that went into operation in 1848, from exercising judicial authority. The charter had not given the mayor much else but judicial authority, and being thus shorn of that, the office dwindled into insignificance. This need not have been entirely so, but the aldermen generally combined against the mayor, to shear him of his authority, first by giving the authority he ought to have exercised to the street committee and others; and secondly, by refusing to pay him for his services. For years they gave him no salary at all, but of late they pay him $500 per annum. They have, however, always allowed him a dollar a night for presiding over their meetings, but nothing for committee or day work.

The following is the list of City Officers for 1870:

GARDINER T. BARKER, Mayor.
HENRY H. FORSYTH, Clerk.
OTTO TRIEBEL, Treasurer.
MICHAEL B. LOUGHLIN, Collector.
M. C. QUINN, Attorney.
DANIEL B. ALLEN, Surveyor and Engineer.

JOHN M. GUILL, Superintendent of Police.
NICHOLAS LOUIS, Chief of Fire Department.
AUGUSTINE A. BUSHELL, Sealer of Weights and Measures.
CHARLES FREDERICK, Market Master.
NICHOLAS BERGAN, Harbor Master.

Aldermen.

J. D. BURR, 2 years.
JOHN RYAN, 1 year. } First Ward.

HENRY FREDERICK, 2 years.
SAMUEL A. KINSEY, 1 year. } Second Ward.

RALPH PHILLIPS, 2 years.
LARKIN B. DAY, 1 year. } Third Ward.

EMIL HUBER, 2 years.
JOHN DOLAN, 1 year. } Fourth Ward.

WM. T. HANNA, 2 years.
FRANK FIELD, 1 year. } Fifth Ward.

DANIEL COSTELLO, 2 years.
ISAAC LAMPLUGH, 1 year. } Sixth Ward.

WILLIAM R. BUSH, 2 years.
JOHN H. HALL, 1 year. } Seventh Ward.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

At first, court was held, as heretofore stated, in a small log house, about fourteen by sixteen feet square; but this soon became so crowded that an upper room over a store on Water street was procured, and used while the court-house was being built. The brick for the present court-house was made in 1833, by Samuel S. Hackleton. At the January term, 1834, the county commissioners' court passed an order that sealed proposals be made to the clerk of said court, by the next term, for the building of a court-house. At said term of said court, the proposals of Charles W. McClallen for the mason work, and those of George B. Macey for the carpenter's and joiner's work, were accepted. That building, which is still used as a court-house, is said to have cost $15,000. If that is so, the people understood then as now how to 'pick the public goose'. Labor was so low then, compared to what it is now, that it ought not to have cost more than half that sum. The court-house has several times been changed since, to suit the whim of those who were temporarily in power. The bench, the bar, the jury-box, spectators' seats, and stairs, have all been several times changed. The stairs formerly were inside the building.

In early times we had no jail. It has often been put

in print that the cellar under the old court-house was the jail. There was a sort of cellar under it, said to have been made to store fur-skins in. I never saw it used as a jail, nor was it at all fit for such a use,—a dog could have scratched out of it; but about the year 1834, a jail was built of square logs, on the alley between Main and Hamilton and between Monroe and Perry streets. It was sixteen feet square, and fourteen feet high. The lower story was constructed of three thicknesses of logs —two lying horizontally, and one between them standing perpendicularly, so that, should an attempt be made to bore the logs out, the perpendicular ones would come down, and stop the hole. The upper story was of only one thickness of logs. To give the work strength, these logs were dove-tailed at the corners. Above the strong room there was a strong floor, and a trap-door. Through this trap-door prisoners were passed, and then the ladder drawn up. The floor of the lower part was made by square timbers fitted close together, and the whole covered with oaken plank spiked down. This building is said to have cost $1000. Such timber as composed it, all but the roof, stairs, floors and doors, could then be bought, delivered on the ground, for eight cents per foot, running measure, and men to put it together for from a dollar to a dollar and a half a day. From this the reader can determine whether that pen ought to have cost a thousand dollars.

This jail proving to be altogether too small, and very inconvenient, another jail was built in 1849, partly of stone and partly of brick, at the intersection of Wash-

ington and North-Fayette streets. That building was used as a jail until recently, although exceedingly inconvenient on account of its distance from the court-house. Every body saw this, but there were two difficulties in the way of amending it. This building cost $11,000, and then for the public to be taxed for another seemed extravagant; but then the county commissioners, who owned the whole town plat, had sold all the ground about the public square for little more than nominal prices, and now to buy back one of those lots, for ten or twenty times as much as they had received for it, was more than they thought their popularity would stand. But the necessity became greater, and people became less inclined to watch their constituents, and finally, in 1867, the board of supervisors, the successors to the board of county commissioners, bought a piece of ground for $6000 that the commissioners had sold for about $75, and on that lot they have, at the expense of about $75,000, erected much the finest jail I ever saw, and they have it now in use for the incarceration of prisoners.

A question may be asked, how we secured prisoners before we had a jail. I answer, we some times set a guard over them, some times let them go on bail, even when it was doubtful whether the case was bailable, and some times we sent them to neighboring counties for security. As the legislature was constantly forming new counties, and it required some time to put up public buildings, an act was passed requiring prisoners to be sent to some other county for confinement, when there was no sufficient jail in the county in which they were charged with criminal conduct.

In old times there was literally no clerk's office in Peoria county. Isaac Waters, who was clerk of both courts when I came here, lived in a cabin made of small unhewn logs, daubed with common mud, not half large enough to accommodate his family; and yet he had no other place to keep the few books and papers belonging to said courts. These he some times could not find, and was blamed when he perhaps deserved more to be pitied. After the present court-house was completed, which was in 1836, the clerks and the sheriff were accommodated with rooms in the first story. Originally the first story of the court-house was divided into six rooms, three of which were used for public offices, and the others were rented to the lawyers. This building was not fire-proof, and in process of time some became afraid our records might be burnt, and advocated pulling down the old house, and building one that should be much finer and also be fire-proof. Those who pay no taxes are always in favor of any new expenditure, because they pay none of it, and have a chance to get some money as it circulates; and in this way the most careful and the most reckless of the town's people became combined in favor of an expenditure of something like $100,000, but were in part overpowered by the farmers in the board, and in part by a fear of their constituents, and a compromise was made. They agreed to put up one wing of the great temple of justice first, for the protection of the records. The result of this compromise was our present clerks' offices, which cost about $19,000. They are fire-proof, and are so constructed as to compose a part of the great edifice,

according to the original plan, when, at some future time, the plan shall be carried out. I suppose at that time every one expected that before now the whole edifice would have been completed; but the enormous debts we have contracted for railroads, water works, and the jail, make it now very uncertain when it will be done.

CHAPTER XIX.

SCHOOLS BY INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES.

I HAVE not been able to learn that the French population of Peoria ever had a school in this place. I believe they had none. Several of them could read and write, but I presume they learned that in Canada. When I came here there was no school in the village, nor was there any worth the name for several years afterward. This was not because of there being any opposition to education, but it was partly owing to the smallness of the number of children in the village, and partly to the fact that the people were too poor to build school-houses. They could with difficulty get shelter for themselves.

There never was, since the Americans settled here, a party opposed to education, nor has there been one opposed to public improvements, though there has been

much dispute as to the mode; but particularly between those who wish to make money off the public by every thing they do, and those who wish to protect the public against such cormorants; and as education and public improvements have always been popular, those who desired to prey on the public have generally carried the elections, and had their own way in these matters, by raising the hue and cry against those who were equally zealous for education and public improvements, but who wished to protect the public against them, and charging them with being opposed to both. In the matter of schools, one of the most iniquitous modes of robbing the public has been for those intrusted by the public with these interests to combine with book-makers, and every few months condemn the present books, and require new ones, or new editions of old ones, to be bought. Still, as any schools are better than no schools, and as it is better to have schools at an enormous expense than not to have any, we may congratulate ourselves on our public schools.

I believe the first school ever attempted in Peoria was in the fall of 1832. The author, seeing some children about, and learning that there was no school in the village, rented a room and opened a school; but it was so badly patronized, for want of children, that in a short time it was closed. Several other attempts of this kind were, with more or less success, made by young ladies. I remember very well when Miss Morrow (who will be remembered by the old settlers, as the sister-in-law of the Burlingames and the first wife of Mr. Amos Stevens) came to Peoria, in 1834, she could not rent a room in the

village to keep school in: finally the author hereof let her have, for that purpose, a small frame house he had built for an office, on the lot on which has since been built, by Mr. Herron, a block of stone-front stores. George H. Quigg, who will be remembered by the old settlers, but more by the writer hereof, came in competition with the young ladies in this business, in 1834 or 1835. The greatest trouble was the scarcity of houses.

Among those who established private schools, in early times, was Rev. David Page. He called his school the Peoria Academy, and opened it for the reception of pupils on the 7th of January, 1840. In his advertisement he said "Children of every age are admitted, from those in the alphabet, and upwards through the whole circle of sciences, so far as they are taught in any academy. The branches that have been taught, above the ordinary branches of common schools, are geometry, algebra, surveying, natural philosophy, chemistry, botany, celestial geography, astronomy, history, logic, rhetoric, composition, declamation, and the Latin and Greek languages. Very small boys, in their first attempts at going to school, are some times placed in the female department." . . . . . "Almost any kind of property is received for tuition, at a reasonable price, provided arrangements be made at the commencement of the quarter." This advertisement was published on the 1st of May, 1844. At that time Mr. Page had purchased a house, and deemed his prospects sufficient to justify him in expanding a little; but before that he had, in an unpretending way, taught in a hired house. Others, from time to time,

did so also, and in that way we were pretty well supplied with common schools until a system of free schools was introduced, which to some extent superseded all private schools. There have, however, always, to the present day, been some private schools supported by those who preferred them.

In 1855, C. C. Bonney, Esq., now a lawyer of Chicago, established a high school, which he called the 'Peoria Institute'. It was located in the Baptist Church. This, however, was of short duration.

The Methodist Church, in 1851, by virtue of a charter from the legislature, ushered into life, with the sound of trumpets, 'The Wesleyan Seminary of Peoria, Illinois'. They purchased the Mitchell House, at the corner of Fulton and Jefferson streets, and put forth a large programme, with a list of no less than twenty-three trustees; but this thing went down, before it was fairly up.

Our Methodist brethren were so unwise as to put a very sanctimonious but a very immoral man at the head of this institution. The people were greatly pleased with the prospects of the seminary, and but for that unfortunate selection, it would hardly have failed of success. They were just going into operation, when it was suddenly ascertained, from unmistakable facts, that he who was appointed to educate our daughters was a vile hypocrite—a filthy debauchee. He fled from the state, and the institution sunk without an effort to save it. The Methodists saw at once that, although we had confidence in them as a Christian community, we could not trust them to select teachers for our daughters.

In 1850, Rev. J. S. Chamberlain bought the large house built by Capt. W. S. Moss, but now occupied by Hon. G. C. Bestor, and opened what he called 'St. Mary's School'. The school, however, did not prove a success.

In 1855 and 1856, an effort was made, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, to establish the 'Peoria University'. An act of incorporation was obtained, and a large amount of funds raised, with which an eligible site, on the bluff, was bought, and some progress made toward erecting suitable buildings; but the whole thing finally, before completion, as did the two academies, as below stated, fell into the hands of the school inspectors.

The first house that was built on purpose for a school-house was built by the author in 1846, on Walnut street, between Washington and Adams streets; and a private school was kept there until the public school-house was built, under the school-law of 1857, on Adams street: the same that now belongs to the German Turners.

Those various private schools, in their day, answered the purpose very well, so far as concerned the ordinary branches of education; but a general dissatisfaction arose as to their efficiency in teaching the higher branches of education; and hence the principal citizens organized two joint-stock companies to build and carry on two academies—one for boys and young men, and the other for girls and young women, who were pretty well advanced in education. These companies were composed mostly, but not altogether, of the same persons.

The company for a male academy was organized on the 23d of March, 1854. Of this institution

Hon. Onslow Peters was President;
Mr. Amos P. Bartlett was Secretary;
Dr. Rudolphus Rouse,
Hon. P. R. K. Brotherson, } Directors;
Mr. John W. Hansel,
Mr. H. G. Anderson, Treasurer;
Capt. Thomas Baldwin,
Mr. William R. Phelps, } Trustees;
Henry S. Austin, Esq.,
Hon. Jacob Gale,
Capt. Hugh J. Sweeny,
Col. C. Ballance, } Committee to purchase a suitable site for the academy.
Mr. Charles S. Clarke,
William F. Bryan, Esq.,

On the 6th of April, 1854, said committee reported in favor of buying lots 10, 11, and 12, in block forty-seven, of Monson and Sanford's Addition, for $1800; which was acquiesced in, and a house authorized to be built, that would cost $3,300, which, at a subsequent meeting, was altered to $4,200.

The house was built, the school established, and proved successful, insomuch that the profits of the year 1855 exceeded the expenses by $307.86. This, for so new an enterprise, in so new a place, was remarkable, but not so remarkable as the fact that on the 6th of April, 1856, the directors of this seminary transferred the whole thing—house, lots and furniture—to the School Inspectors of the City of Peoria,—not for the money they had cost, but by the said School Inspectors issuing to each stockholder scrip to the amount that he had paid, payable two years thereafter, without interest for the time past, but with six per cent. interest for the time to come.

The female school, in its first organization, was not called an academy nor seminary, but the 'Female School Association'. At the commencement the association was too poor to buy ground on which to build, and leased ground from me on Jefferson street, between Liberty and Fulton streets, at a nominal rent, on a lease of ten years, upon the condition that at the end of the time the lessor should, at his option, buy the house to be built, or sell the ground, at their appraised value. That lease is before me now: it is in Judge Powell's handwriting, and dated April 1st, 1850. It purports to have been made between myself of the first part, and Jacob Gale, Hervey Lightner and Elihu N. Powell, on behalf of the association; but for some reason, which I have forgotten, Mr. Lightner's name is not subscribed to it. This school succeeded admirably, and became a source of profit; but before the lease had expired, some ill-disposed person burnt it down, together with some books and chemical apparatus that had been procured for the school. The parties concerned were so encouraged by this experiment that they bought a lot, and built a much better house (the first having been of wood and the latter of brick); but the same men who swallowed up the male school found room in their capacious maws for this also. By what appears on their records as a fair vote, but which had none of the elements of fairness about it, it was, in like manner, for a like consideration, turned over to the same parties, and they are both in their hands to this day. This created much dissatisfaction, for it was done without the knowledge of the most of the stockholders.

Some refused to receive the scrip that was offered to them for their stock, and talked of suing, and I suppose it was a clear case for the interference of a court of chancery; but no suits were brought, but in process of time the matter quieted down, and all, or nearly all, finally accepted the scrip or the money.

One great objection made to this change was that it was done clandestinely, without sufficient notice to the stockholders. It was even done without the author, who was one of the four directors elected to conduct said school, having any knowledge of it, until it was all over. Yet the most substantial difference between the two plans was this: In these joint-stock companies, none had a voice in managing them but those who had taken stock in them, and then the votes were in proportion to the number of shares owned by each voter; whereas, as soon as the property was turned over to the 'School Inspectors', it was entirely beyond their control. It is true that these same men had a right to vote for the School Inspectors, but that vote was liable to be entirely overshadowed and lost sight of by the great multitude who had furnished none of the money, and who paid no taxes, and yet had a right to vote for School Inspectors. It was virtually taking the money of those who had been industrious enough, and provident enough, to lay up any, and giving it to those who had been too lazy or careless to make any, or who had spent their earnings in dissipation, or, peradventure, in enjoyments that were only objectionable as being beyond their means.

On Second street, near Franklin, is now in successful

operation an institution called 'The Peoria German School Association'. They have a large and well-built brick building, and teach the English and German languages. They employ two German male teachers, and one female English teacher. This school was established by a company of German gentlemen, with their own funds, and is managed by them, in their own way.

CHAPTER XX.

THE PRESENT SCHOOL SYSTEM, COMMONLY CALLED FREE SCHOOLS.

VARIOUS school-laws were passed by the legislature, from time to time; but the first one worthy of note, in this connection, is one passed on the sixteenth of February, 1857, which may be found on page 259 of the statutes of that year, and on page 444 of the collection of Scates *et al.* This had previously been the law. It was enacted and reënacted from 1841 to 1847. It is a long statute, with many and ample provisions. By section 42, it is provided that the legal voters shall elect "three persons within the district, to be styled *school directors*," who are to hold office for a year. Section 43 is in these words: "For the purpose of erecting school-houses, or for the purpose of purchasing school-house sites, or for

the purpose of repairing and improving the same, for procuring furniture, fuel and district libraries, and for the purpose of paying the balance due teachers, after the state and township funds are exhausted, the board of directors of any district shall be authorized to have levied and collected a tax annually, on all the property in their district."

This law gave them power, without limit, to levy tax to any amount they might please, subject, however, to a vote of the people, which people were the same to whom they owed their election, a large majority of whom paid little or no taxes. Under this law large amounts of money were collected, and several school-houses partly built, and one would have thought that even 'democracy run mad' would have been satisfied with it; but such was not the fact.

The besetting sin of American society is a mania for office. Men will abandon a business worth two thousand dollars a year for an office worth one thousand, and they are ready to ruin the public interests, for the honor of ruling the public. They array the poor against the rich, and assume the honor of leading the former, because they are most numerous. This class of men are constantly endeavoring to get into some small office, as a stepping-stone to a higher one; and they educate those who have nothing to believe that the way to get the property of the rich is to break them down by taxation; and, to get the votes of such, they promise to assess a new tax, or increase the old ones.

This baleful disposition caused a law to be passed, on

the 14th of February, 1845, which provided for the election of seven inspectors of schools, to be denominated 'The Board of School Inspectors'. The name of this corporation seems incongruous. School trustees, school directors, school superintendents, or school commissioners, would seem more appropriate; but the fact is, so many laws had been passed on the subject that all appropriate terms had been exhausted, leaving the getters-up of our present school-law no alternative but to call themselves 'inspectors'.

This act gives this board omnipotent power, on the subject of renting or building school-houses, hiring teachers and determining their salaries, and levying taxes for these purposes, except that the eighth section requires that, after the amount of taxes has been determined by them, the question of levying shall be submitted to the people, at the next election, and if a majority vote for it, it becomes peremptory on the board of aldermen to levy and collect the tax, and hand it over to the treasurer appointed by the board. This clause, however, in practice, has amounted to nothing, for the majority, getting the benefit of the tax without paying any of it, would vote for a million dollars, were that the sum proposed, in stead of and in preference to any smaller sum.

On the 27th of January, 1857, this law was so amended as to require nine in stead of seven inspectors to form the board, and it provided "That the persons so elected, and their successors in office, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of the 'Board of School Inspectors of the City of Peoria'; that

they shall have perpetual succession, and by said name shall have power to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts and places where judicial proceedings are had."

This law also provided for the issuing of $50,000 of city bonds, to be put into the hands of the school inspectors, to aid in building school-houses.

On the 20th of February, 1869, an act was passed entitled "An act to reduce the Charter of Peoria, and the several acts amendatory thereof, into one act, and revise the same." Said two school-laws, with but little variation, are incorporated into said charter, and, as thus reenacted, are now the law on the subject.

The second section of this law provides that "The said board of school inspectors shall consist of the mayor of the City of Peoria, and two members from each ward (the election districts in the township of Peoria to be deemed, for school purposes, portions of the wards at which the voting for said districts is now or may hereafter be done), who shall be residents of their respective wards, and who shall hold their offices, respectively, for two years, or until the election and qualification of their successors." From this I understand that, as we have seven wards in our city, and the board of aldermen may make as many as they please, the number of school inspectors is increased to fifteen, and may be much larger, should the number of wards be increased.

The most noticeable point wherein the law, as thus incorporated into the city charter, differs from the law of 1855, is this: By the law of 1855, the board of alder-

men were only bound to levy the tax after it had been voted by the people; whereas, by the charter, the board of inspectors is supreme. It is only necessary for them to demand the money, and the board of aldermen (their humble servants) are compellable to levy the tax, collect it, and hand it over.

By this last charter, besides giving all the school-funds to the school inspectors, to the exclusion of all other schools, and an unlimited power of taxing the people in any sum not exceeding six mills in the dollar's worth, which is withheld from all other schools, the city council is authorized to issue and put into their hands any amount of city bonds, not exceeding in the whole 125,000.

Effectually to break down all independent schools, the following section is contained in both of said laws: "No school in said city, or the teacher or pupils thereof, shall receive any part of any school-fund belonging to the state, or any money raised by taxation, that is not a public school, as provided by this act, and established and maintained under the authority and direction of the board of inspectors." But, as above stated, this effect was not entirely produced.

To understand the importance of the above clause, it should be stated that taxation, the greatest source of school-funds now, was not formerly resorted to at all. We then had, and still have, other sources of revenue, obtained in this wise: When it was proposed to give the Illinois Territory the position of a state, the general government required several concessions of the future

state, and, as an inducement to those concessions, Congress proposed to concede—

"That five per cent. of the net proceeds of the lands lying within such state, and which should be sold by Congress from and after the first day of January, 1819, after deducting all expenses incident to the same, shall be reserved for the purposes following, viz: two fifths to be disbursed, under the direction of Congress, in making roads leading to the state, the residue to be appropriated, by the legislature of the state, for the encouragement of learning, of which one-sixth part shall be exclusively for a college or university."

"That thirty-six sections, or one entire township, shall be designated by the President of the United States, together with the one heretofore reserved, for the use of a seminary of learning, and vested in the legislature of the said state, to be appropriated solely to the use of such seminary, by the said legislature."

The schedule containing the above propositions was passed in Congress on the 18th day of April, 1818, and accepted by the State of Illinois on the 25th of August, 1818. A large amount of funds went into the state treasury, by virtue of this compact, which were squandered. Afterward, when the national treasury was overflowing, and a reduction of the tariff was opposed to the policy of the majority, the surplus revenue was divided among the several states, and Illinois, after fooling away her part, voted to add it to the school-fund, and pay interest on the whole for the benefit of schools. To all of

which should be added the proceeds of the sixteenth section.

On the 16th of February, 1857, the legislature, that had always been too poor or unpatriotic to restore the college and seminary funds, passed a law levying a tax of two mills on all taxable property, for the use of schools.

From these sources of revenue are produced the school-fund, the interest on which is annually divided among the counties, in proportion to the children that might be educated, and then, in the counties, it is divided among all the schools, according to the actual number of *scholars sent to school, and the actual time they are kept at it.* It was in these funds that said laws prohibited the schools in Peoria from participating, unless they would submit themselves to the said school inspectors.

Under these laws schools have been established in the City of Peoria very extensively. No less than nine school-houses have been built, and all but three of them are very expensive brick buildings. Three of them are wooden buildings, and one of the three is exclusively for colored children. In these the Superintendent computes that he is educating 2,600 pupils. To teach these students, fifty-five tutors are employed—six males and forty-nine females—at salaries, to the males, of $1,200, except the principal, who gets $1,900, and to the females, from $375 to $900.

What effect the Catholic movement, detailed in Chapter XIX, will have on these schools is yet to be proved; the Catholics are so numerous that, should they withdraw

all their children, it must thin out the schools considerably.

Appended to these is an institution called the Normal School, which is in its infancy. This school is supported by the County of Peoria and the City of Peoria—the county paying three-fourths of the expenses. There are, as yet, but two teachers—Mr. White, at a salary of $2,500; and Miss Hannay, at a salary of $750—and forty scholars.

These are very showy schools, and many of our citizens are proud of them; but this feeling is far from being universal. A considerable number (although these schools are free to them) prefer to send their children away, to where board and tuition are very costly.

The Board of School Inspectors at present (1870) consists of

William F. Bryan, Esq.,
Chauncey Nye, Esq.,
Charles Feinse, Esq.,
Mr. Alexander G. Tyng,
Mr. Charles Raymond,
Mr. B. L. T. Bourland,
Hon. Gardiner T. Barker,
Mr. A. F. Lincoln,
Mr. Benjamin Foster,
Mr. George H. McIlvaine,
Mr. Eldrick Smith, jr.,
Mr. Eugene B. Pierce,
Mr. John Wichmann,
E. S. Willcox, Esq.,
Mr. N. C. Nason.

Mr. J. E. Dow is Superintendent.
Mr. John Hamlin is Treasurer.

CHAPTER XXI.

CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

From Mr. Beggs's *Early History of the West and Northwest*, page 131, I learn that "in the year 1825, Jesse Walker formed a class of sixteen members," composed of the following persons, to wit, "Jesse Walker and wife; James Walker and wife; Sister Dixon, the wife of the proprietor of Dixontown, on Rock River; Sister Hamlin and another sister, converts that winter; William Holland and wife; William Eads and wife; William Blanchard; Rev. Reeves McCormick, and Mary Clark." He also speaks of a camp-meeting had about a mile above Peoria, the next summer; and a year or two afterward of a camp-meeting on Farm Creek, three miles east of Peoria; and he gives the names of several Methodist preachers who officiated here, in those days. Be all this as it may, when I came to the country, in November, 1831, these people were mostly gone, and the whole thing seemed to have been forgotten. I never heard it mentioned. There was then no religious society of any kind, nor a preacher of any kind, in the County of Peoria.

Yet we occasionally had fervent preaching, by those who felt it their duty to travel to the remotest ends of the earth in search of the 'lost sheep of the House of Is-

rael'; and peradventure, some times, by those who took that mode of paying their traveling bills. I remember to have heard preach, before any church was organized here, Rev. Mr. Heath, then of St. Louis; Rev. John St. Clair, from Ottawa or thereabouts; Rev. Joel Arrington, from I know not where; Rev. Zadoc Hall, who, I believe, is yet alive and in Woodford county; Rev. John Brich (an elderly English gentleman, who would have been, like Goldsmith's country clergyman, "passing rich with forty pound a year"; and with that would "ne'er have changed, nor wished to change, his place"; but the trouble was, he did not get the forty pound a year, and, of necessity, had constantly to change his place. In short, he was a good old man, who had mistaken his calling; and, though every body else saw it at once, he never ascertained that fact, and, having no place at which permanently to preach, he traveled abroad, preaching in the most out-of-the-way places. It was said at the time, but I know not whether it was true, that a drove of wolves caught him, in the great prairie extending through Henry and Mercer counties, and eat him up); Rev. Jonathan G. Porter, who made shoes of week-days, and preached on the Sabbath (but what became of him I know not. He was a 'Henglishman', who sounded an h before every vowel where there was none, but omitted every one he met with); Rev. Flavel Bascom, Rev. Romulus Barnes, and Rev. Ozias Hale. Mr. Hale did not preach long. It soon became manifest that he had likewise mistaken his calling, and he withdrew from the ministry. After living a few years in great retirement near Hale's Mill, he died,

a good, but not a useful man. He was brother to two very clever men, who were long well known here, but who are now both dead, viz., William and Asahel Hale.

The first Christian church organized in Peoria, of which I had any knowledge, until I saw Mr. Beggs's book a few days ago, was a Methodist-Episcopal church. It was organized in 1833, by Rev. Mr. Heath and Rev. Mr. St. Clair. It was organized with the following members: Jonathan G. Porter, Samuel B. King and his wife, Mark M. Aiken, Laura Hale, Hannah Harker, and Abigail Waters. The meetings were held in the 'old court-house', and in private dwellings, until 1840, when a frame building was erected, on the present church-lot, corner of Fulton and Madison streets. In 1844 fifteen feet were added to the rear of this building, making it in all a house 43 feet long by 40 wide. In this house the society worshiped until the spring of 1849, when it was sold to James McFadden, who removed it to the corner of Water and Harrison streets, where it still stands, and constitutes a part of the Central Hotel. In the mean time, the society had been building a large brick edifice, 90 feet long by 60 feet wide, on the same lot. This they began in the summer of 1847, and got completed in about two years. It was dedicated on the 9th of September, 1849.

Although other branches of the Methodist Church have sprung up in the city, this one has continued to increase, and has at present about 220 members. Rev. J. P. Brooks is the present minister, and Rev. L. B. Kent is the presiding elder.

There is a very pretty little frame edifice, on Chestnut street, between Adams and Jefferson streets, of which the members are mostly, if not all, Germans, and yet are Methodists, in connection and good standing with the great Methodist-Episcopal Church of America. This society has only been in existence about two years. Rev. Henry Thomas is their minister.

There is a Methodist society whose place of worship for several years was at the intersection of Perry and Eaton streets; but they have recently removed their meeting-house from that place to the intersection of Jefferson and Evans streets. They are in fellowship with the great Methodist-Episcopal Church. Rev. Henry Apple is their pastor.

On the bluff, at the head of Main street, is a fine new church, built by funds devised by Mr. Ashael Hale, called Hale Chapel. The worshipers here I understand to be about 150, and to be in connection with the Methodist-Episcopal Church. Rev. W. A. Spencer is their minister.

In 1852 the Germans organized a Methodist church, in which the worship is carried on in the German language. Whether they are in connection with the general Methodists or not I have not learned.

At the corner of Fifth and Monson streets is a small chapel for the colored people who belong to the African Methodist-Episcopal Church.

Since the Presbyterians have again united as a band of brothers, the following anecdote may amuse the present generation without hurting any one. In 1834, the

strife that ultimately split the church in twain was brewing; and although the common people did not then, and do not now, know what they quarreled and divided about, those who made the split did know what they were after, and, some time before the split actually took place, were shaping things so as to have the majority in the General Assembly when the crisis should be upon them. There were hardly then Presbyterians enough in Peoria for one society, much less to form two; and one society being organized, it was known that the synod would not recognize a second. Joshua Aiken, Moses Pettengill and Enoch Cross were Presbyterians of New-School predilections, and they made arrangements to organize a church with such materials as would cast their influence in favor of the New-School party, and they appointed the 21st day of December, 1834, for that purpose; and as Romulus Barnes and Flavel Bascom were missionary preachers agreeing with them in this matter, and were officiating as such in Illinois, they were sent for to perform that duty. They organized a church of eleven members, of which the three above-named gentlemen were appointed elders. These were all New-England men.

But, while these things were transpiring, there was a counter-current at work. Samuel Lowry was a zealous Old-School Presbyterian, from the north of Ireland, and deemed it very important to prevent the other party from getting the start. He found the old gentleman, Mr. Brich, of whom notice has been taken, and on the 22d of the same month organized a church of persons of Old-

School proclivities, to wit: Samuel Lowry, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Taggart, John Sutherland, Nelson Buck, and perhaps two or three others.

Here was a fine prospect for an interminable ecclesiastical litigation, between brothers Aiken and Lowry, each one endeavoring to prevent the other's church from being recognized by the synod; and those who were acquainted with the persistence of the parties expected nothing less, for both of them belonged to that class of stern, old-fashioned Christians,

> "Who never knelt, but to their God to pray,
> Nor even then, unless in their own way."

But soon after this the great split in the Presbyterian Church took place, and the Old-School branch recognized Mr. Lowry's church, and the New-School the other, which was commonly called Mr. Pettengill's, as Mr. Aiken was much from home and finally died, and Dr. Cross moved away.

In the summer of 1835, Rev. Isaac Keller, an Old-School Presbyterian preacher of some ability, removed from Maryland, with his family, to Peoria; and in the fall of the same year, Mr. Henry Schnebly, with a large family, came from the same state. In the mean time Mrs. Lindsay, with a large family, mostly Presbyterians, had come from Pennsylvania, and Clark D. Powell from Virginia. These additions, being Old-School men, enabled the Old-School party to present a bold front; and, but for internal divisions, they might have made a strong party. The world never knew—perhaps *I* never knew—the *real* cause of the schism. I suppose, however, the

real cause was a strong disposition in Mr. Lowry to rule whatever he was concerned with, and an equally strong disposition on the part of Mr. Keller not to be ruled. The ostensible cause, however, was a discovery that Lowry, who was insolvent, had taken the deed to the church-lot in his own name. Be all that as it may, Mr. Keller, who had preached for the society, withdrew and preached in the court-house until his party became strong enough to build a church, which they did on Fulton street, the same now occupied by the Jews as a synagogue. They abandoned the old organization, and on the 31st of October, 1840, organized themselves as an Old-School Presbyterian church, and elected as elders Mr. Henry Schnebly, Clark D. Powell, and Joseph Batchelder. For this organization Rev. Isaac Keller preached several years; but having settled permanently in the country, and being somewhat advanced in life, he was succeeded by Rev. Addison Coffey, a lean, tall man, of feeble health, whose morals and orthodoxy were never questioned. He died in the ministry at Peoria. During his ministration the church on Fulton street was sold to the Universalists, who afterward sold it to the Jews, by whom it is now occupied, and during that time the present church, on the corner of Main and Madison streets, was built. The bell and steeple have since been added.

After the death of Mr. Coffey, viz., in October, 1855, Rev. Robert Johnston was installed as pastor to this congregation. He preached for it until his death, which happened on the 19th of August, 1864. If I say this man did not mistake his calling—that he was 'the right

man in the right place',—I know no man who I think would be inclined to contradict me.

After Mr. Johnston's death, Rev. J. H. Morron was installed as parson of that church, and he occupies that position now.

When this church was organized, it was composed of 24 communicants; in 1851, of 120; but now it has a much larger number.

On the 7th of December, 1853, the Old-School Presbyterian church was amicably divided, and out of a part of its members a church was organized, called the Second Presbyterian Church of Peoria. They built a church at the corner of Madison and Jackson streets, and obtained for their preacher Rev. R. P. Farris. The old church, from that time forward, was called the First Presbyterian Church of Peoria. Rev. Robert P. Farris preached for the second church, for a time, and was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Hibben. After his death Rev. William E. McLaren preached for it several years. After he left, Rev. H. V. D. Nevius was installed, and preaches for them yet. That church has now about 185 communicants.

The Presbyterian church organized by Mr. Brich died a natural death. The most of the members followed Mr. Keller. Messrs. Lowry, Powell and Sutherland moved away, and all died. The church and church-lot went to pay Mr. Lowry's debts, or for some other purpose, and were not accounted for. In facts there had ceased to be any one to account to for them.

I stop the press to say that, since this work was hand-

ed over to the printer, I have just received from Rev. John G. Bergen, who was once a leader in the Presbyterian Church, a letter dated February 2d, 1870, from which I copy the following: "There was a commission of the Synod of Illinois, vested with synodical powers to call before them persons and papers, of which I was chairman; and we met at Peoria (if I remember correctly) in 1842; and we investigated and adjudged on the whole matter of the difficulty: dissolved the church which Mr. S. Lowry claimed to have organized, and for which he said Rev. Mr. Brich prayed, and proceeded to organize, with the power of synod committed to us, a Presbyterian church, in due form, over which Mr. Keller became stated supply."

This proceeding, I suppose, was gotten up by Mr. Keller's party, to clear the record of the then defunct church which had been organized by Messrs. Lowry and Brich, so that the organization of a church for Mr. Keller might not seem unpresbyterial.

On Walnut street, near the corner of Walnut and Water streets, is a church called Calvary Mission, which was gotten up mostly by the exertions of Mr. William Reynolds. It was commenced as a Sunday school, but by degrees was developed into a church. Christianity in general has been taught there, more than any particular sectarian doctrine; yet the society is substantially a Presbyterian society. It has been nurtured mostly by Presbyterians, and William Reynolds, the principal founder, and sole elder at its organization, is a Presbyterian, and Rev. John Weston, the pastor, is a Presbyteri-

an. This society was organized into a church on the 28th day of June, 1867, and already contains many members. Since the organization, Dr. J. Carey has been added to the eldership.

Another Sunday school of this kind, mostly under the auspices of Mr. George H. McIlvaine, has lately developed into a church, and Rev. George Johnson has been employed to officiate as its parson. Their place of worship is in a small meeting-house at the corner of Green and Clay streets. Their numbers I have not learned. The society has heretofore been called Grace Mission, but it will now probably take the name of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Several of the principal religious societies have established, in the suburbs, Sunday schools of this kind, which may or may not develop into churches.

The Presbyterian society organized by Messrs. Barnes and Bascom increased in numbers, and in 1835 built themselves a small frame meeting-house on Main street, 28 by 50 feet square. When this church was organized, it consisted of but eleven members. In October, 1847, it had increased to twenty-two members.

In 1852 this society built themselves a brick church, on the ground of the frame one, at a cost of $8,000. This entailed upon them a debt which lay like an incubus upon them for seven years. Finally, "on Thanksgiving morning, November 25th, 1859, Deacon Pettengill, who held the obligations, presented the whole amount, $4,074.07, as a freewill offering to the church." However, before this glorious jubilee had arrived, to wit, in

October, 1855, twenty-two members withdrew from this church, and resolved themselves into a New-School Presbyterian church, as is seen below. This church has met many difficulties, but upon the whole its march has been onward. It now numbers 172 communicants.

At a time when abolitionism was very unpopular, this was called an abolition society, and a very decided abolitionist, Rev. William Allen, preached for them. A publication went abroad that on the 13th of February, 1843, a meeting would be held in said church to organize an abolition society. A counter meeting was called at the court-house to counteract that movement. Strong resolutions were passed against the abolitionists, and a determination expressed to suppress the meeting, 'peaceably if they could, but forcibly if they must'. A committee of respectable citizens was appointed to appear in the abolition meeting, and read a parcel of resolutions to them. Although these were respectable men, they had on their side all the rabble of the city; and when all these, with their rough looks, made their appearance, the abolitionists thought it was no place for them, and left. With some difficulty, the better class prevented the rabble from pulling down the house. They did not prevent them, however, from running the preacher's buggy into the lake. The Rev. J. A. Mack is their pastor.

Those who withdrew from Mr. Pettengill's church, and resolved themselves into a New-School Presbyterian church, built a brick house of worship on the corner of Fulton and Monroe streets, and have kept up their organization ever since: first as a New-School church, and

since the union of the two branches as the Fulton-Street Church. Rev. Mr. Hovey is their pastor.

On the third of March, 1855, a Cumberland-Presbyterian church was organized, and they built themselves a small house of worship, on Monson street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, and obtained for their preacher Rev. S. T. Stewart. He has long since left, and I believe they have now no preacher. Their number is small. I believe they have disbanded, and sold their meeting-house to the Episcopalians, for whom Rev. John Benson preaches.

Through the zeal of a Mr. S. Glover (whose piety proved to be not at all equal to his zeal and talents), a very respectable edifice was built, at the corner of Madison and Liberty streets, and a respectable society of worshipers collected there, who called themselves United Presbyterians. As I understand it, they were seceders. They were Presbyterians in every thing, except that they would not sing Watts's hymns, which the Presbyterians do. They flourished for some time, but their favorite preacher 'fell from grace', and 'quit his country for his country's good'. They were generally respectable people, and were not responsible for their preacher's conduct; yet they seemed unable to survive the blow. They kept up their organization for some time, but finally sold their place of worship, and I do not know that they have now any preaching. Their meeting-house has gone into the hands of the 'Turners'.

On the 27th day of October, 1834, a Mr. Palmer Dyer organized an Episcopal church in Peoria, which he named

St. Jude's Church. Augustus O. Garrett was, at that time, keeping a tavern at the corner of Main and Washington streets. Mr. Dyer put up there as a traveler or boarder, and, as there was no house of worship in town, preached in Mr. Garrett's ball-room. He proposed to organize a society for religious worship. There were few, if any, Episcopalians present, but no body objected to preaching, and all were more or less ardently in favor of it. So he organized an Episcopal church, without any reference to the kind of religious training his audience had had, or the religious opinions they entertained. I have not a list of the members of his church, if he made any, but his officers were as follows: Palmer Dyer, Rector; Edward Dickinson and Samuel C. Baldwin, Wardens; Augustus O. Garrett, Joseph C. Frye, William Mitchell, Rudolphus Rouse, George Kellogg, P. A. Westervelt, William Frisby, and Andrew M. Hunt, Vestrymen; William Frisby, Clerk. By those who knew the above gentlemen this would not be considered a very 'high church'; yet it is said that Bishop Chase owed his elevation to the position of Bishop of Illinois to this same Rev. Mr. Dyer and his St. Jude's Church, and that he recognized it for several years as a very proper Episcopal organization; yet at a subsequent time he ignored it, and treated it as never having existed, and organized in its stead another, which he called St. Paul's Church. This is the society that built the large church at the corner of Monroe and Main streets, to which Mr. Cracraft long preached, and which now has for its rector Rev. James W. Coe. The corner-stone was laid, with considerable

ceremony, by Bishop Chase, in 1849, and the church was finished and dedicated on the 15th of September, 1850. This society is composed of about 63 persons.

There is a house of worship on Monson street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, called St. Paul's chapel, under the ministration of Mr. John Benson, who is understood to be a 'high-church' Episcopalian.

The first Baptist society was organized in Peoria on the 14th of August, 1836. Rev. Henry Headley preached for them in the Court-House for some time. Rev. Isaac D. Newell took charge of this congregation on the 22d of October, 1843. Several others have ministered to them since, and some times they have been without a parson. No one, however, whom they have had left a fairer record than Rev. H. G. Weston, who, when I last saw him, was preaching to a large congregation in the City of New York. They built a church while Mr. Newell was their pastor, on Hamilton street, fronting on the public square, which they occupied for many years. Finally they sold it to one who turned it into a billiard saloon, and in lieu thereof, for the sum of $10,000, they bought a church, in July, 1864, which the Unitarians had built, at the corner of Madison and Fayette streets. Their membership is between 200 and 300, and Mr. S. A. Kingsbury, D. D., is their preacher.

Another Baptist church was organized on the 24th of January, 1855, and for several years Rev. John Edminster was their pastor. They built a meeting-house on Adams street, between Locust and Persimmon streets. Rev. W. T. Green is their present pastor. To Rev.

Messrs. Edminster and Weston is mainly due the honor of establishing this church.

On the 24th of August, 1852, the 'First German Baptist Church' was organized. They first held worship in the basement of the First Baptist Church. They now worship in a meeting-house on the corner of Jefferson and Elm streets, and Rev. J. Merz is their pastor.

There is a small society who glory in the name of Christians, and are not pleased with having any other name applied to them, but people generally call them Campbellites. As I understand it, they are Baptists, simple and pure, but they are not held in fellowship by the others—not because they are not as much in favor of baptism as they, but because they denounce all creeds and confessions of faith. This society was organized on the 1st of November, 1845; but it has not prospered, and I do not know whether they continue their meetings. They built a house of worship on Seventh street, between Franklin and Monson streets.

In 1847 the Roman Catholics organized a church which they called St. Mary's Church, and they built a large house of worship at the corner of Jefferson and Eaton streets. They have had various priests, but the one who officiates now is Rev. John Mackin. They report about 2,000 members. In connection with this church is a large school-house, nearly ready for the reception of pupils, which will cost about $12,000, and be sufficient to accommodate 500 scholars.

On the 10th of September, 1861, the Rev. Henry Doyle, then in charge of St. Mary's Church, established

an appendage to it, which he called St. Patrick's Church. This church continued as an appendage to St. Mary's Church until March 1st, 1868, when it became an independent church, with Rev. Michael Hurley as priest, who continues to officiate in that capacity. He claims fifteen hundred members. Their place of worship is in the small frame church at the corner of High and Cedar streets.

Attached to this church, and subject to the supervision of Father Hurley, is a common school of about two hundred pupils.

At the corner of Spencer and First streets is a tolerably large Catholic church, in which the Rev. William Deiters is priest. They claim 2,000 members. They are Germans, and the sermon is preached in the German language. Attached to this church is a school kept by Sisters of Nôtre Dame, who teach about 300 scholars in the German and English languages.

There is a select Catholic school, kept by the Sisters of St. Joseph, near the intersection of Madison and Hamilton streets. They have about 160 scholars. Although this is a sectarian school, I have been informed by a Catholic priest that it is more patronized by Protestants than by Catholics.

The Catholics are opposed to our public schools, because the Protestant Bibles are read in them and Protestant prayers and hymns are used in them, and have taken the most of their children from them, and intend to withdraw the rest as soon as they have provided sufficient accommodations.

In 1847 there was a society of German Protestants organized into a church, who called themselves the Evangelical Association. They have a small church at the corner of First and State streets. Rev. F. W. Walker is their pastor.

The German Protestants have a society called the 'Evangelical Lutheran Church', organized December 1st, 1853. Their house of worship is on First street, between Fisher and Goodwin streets. Rev. M. J. Tjaden is their pastor.

A place of worship called the 'German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church' is located on the corner of Jefferson and Maple streets. It was organized June 28th, 1853, by Rev. F. Boeling. The number of communicants is 350. The present minister, who has charge of the congregation, and who has had charge of it for nine years, is Rev. Paulus Heid. With that church three parochial schools are connected: one located on North-Madison street; another on South-Adams street; and the third near the church, on Jefferson street.

On the 3d day of January, 1847, was organized a New-Jerusalem or Swedenborgian church. They first built a temple on Jefferson street, immediately to the northeast of Mr. Lightner's residence, and this they occupied for a good many years; but now they have erected a very good, though not a large, house of worship on Hamilton, street, between Jefferson and Madison streets. Rev. G. F. Stearns is their pastor.

A Universalist society was organized here on the 6th of May, 1843. At first they had no house of worship,

but in process of time they bought the meeting-house built by the Presbyterians, on Fulton street, but which is now owned by the Jews. After using that for several years, they sold it, and were for a while without a place of worship; but they have recently built upon Main street, between Perry and Hale streets, a very fine house of worship—the most expensive one in the city. Rev. R. H. Pullman is their pastor.

The Unitarians have not flourished in Peoria. In June, 1840, Rev. Benjamin Huntoon organized a Unitarian society here, and from his zeal considerable results were anticipated; but he returned to New England, and his church went down.

In January, 1855, a Unitarian church was organized under the auspices of Rev. James R. McFarland. They had their meetings, for some time, over Mr. Joseph Clegg's clothing-store, at No. 47 Main street; but they soon afterward built a very comfortable house of worship at the corner of Madison and Fayette streets, and held their meetings there for some time; but, for some cause I can not explain, the church went down, and their house of worship passed into the hands of the Baptists.

In 1846, Michael Ruppelius, a very good sort of a German, organized a religious society of forty members, which he called simply the 'Protestant Church'. This society was composed mostly, perhaps altogether, of Germans. In 1851, Mr. Drown's Directory says he had 150 members. He preached to them several years, in the Court-House. Finally he quit that business, and betook himself to the business of a conveyancer, and followed

that for some time before his death. What went with his little society I never knew.

In early times there were no Jews here, or, if there were, they were not known as such. But in process of time, as foreigners came pouring into the country, it was found that many of them were Israelites, and they occasionally had worship to themselves on Saturday: Sunday being no holy day with them. On the 2d of May, 1863, they were organized into a regular religious congregation, since which time their services have been as regular as others. The Rev. Marx Moses is the officiating pastor or priest.

Besides the above religious societies, that may be called churches, we have a number of religious organizations that would hardly bear that name: for instance—1st, the various mission Sunday schools above referred to, which have not been developed into churches; 2d, the 'Peoria Bible Society'; 3d, the 'Young Men's Christian Association'; 4th, the 'Peoria Branch of U. S. Christian Association'; 5th, the 'German, Roman Catholic, St. Joseph's Benevolent Association'; 6th, the 'Hibernian Benevolent Society'; 7th, the 'Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society'; 8th, the 'Peoria Ladies' Soldiers'-Aid Society'; 9th, the 'Union Relief Society'.

Besides these, we have a number of secret societies, said to be benevolent institutions, such as the different orders and grades of Free-Masons, Odd-Fellows, Sons of Malta, Druids, Sons of Temperance, Oriental Order of Humility, etc., about all of which I am most profoundly ignorant. From their exhibitions, however, on gala-days,

and at funerals, some of them are manifestly very numerous.

CHAPTER XXII.

MANUFACTURES. FOUNDRIES AND MACHINE-SHOPS.

THE foundry and machine business has made many men rich, but perhaps nearly as many poor. To prosecute this business successfully requires skill, patience, and financial ability. The most of manufacturing projects will succeed if the parties have skill and financial ability; but with both these qualities a man will fail at the above business unless he have patience. For years the expense for patterns will swallow up most of the profits, and without patience a man will go down. But after years of perseverance, all the ordinary patterns will have been made and laid by; then, if a man have skill and financial ability, the greenbacks will roll into his lap.

The first man who undertook this business in Peoria was William R. Hopkins. He had learning, but no skill in this matter, no patience, nor financial ability. He commenced the business about twenty-seven years ago, in a one-story brick building, on the ground where the Central Hotel now stands, at the corner of Harrison and Water streets. The house had been built by Messrs.

Isaac Underhill and Aquila Wren, for a pork-packing house. Mr. Hopkins did considerable business; but, as I understand it, he made no money, and run out for want of means.

The next who attempted the business in Peoria was William Peters. He had skill and patience, and perhaps financial ability; but he commenced very poor, and strove on to the time of his death, say fifteen years, to get a start. All that time, besides supporting his family, it took him to procure sufficient buildings, machinery, and patterns. Since his death, his establishment has fallen into the hands of men who, it is understood, have made money by it. It is now believed to be a success. Five practical men, under the name and style of Nicol, Burr & Co., now own and are operating that establishment; and they report to me that they work every day in the year, Sundays excepted, upon an average, fifty men. That during last year they built seven steam-engines, and that they make every day, upon an average, except Sundays, from 3600 to 4000 pounds of castings. That in doing this they use during the year 150 tons of anthracite coal, 60 tons of Blossburg coal, and 360 tons of common Illinois coal. In connection with this business, they have started the manufacture of corn-planters, and expect to run pretty largely into that business this year.

At a pretty early period, Mr. Luke Wood run a foundry a while, but for some reason, that I have forgotten, if I ever knew, it went down. I do not remember the date of his operations.

The foundries that are now driving the business, with

every prospect of success, are Voris & Co., who call their establishment 'Voris Steam-Engine Works'; and Nicol, Burr & Co., who call their establishment 'The Peoria Foundry and Machine-Shop'.

H. G. Anderson, for several years, has been doing a large business in the old foundry established by the Messrs. Moore, which, it is understood, belongs to him and Mrs. Evans, late Mrs. Moore; but, for some reason not explained to me, the business is now suspended.

All the above are machine-shops as well as foundries.

There are two iron-foundries, however, that have no machine-shops attached, to wit, the foundry of Culter & Proctor, who make the manufacture of stoves a specialty, and the firm of O'Rorke & Co., which is composed of several practical moulders. They do a good business, mainly in making castings for the manufacturers of agricultural implements. They labor every day, except Sunday, every one of them, and are not even at the expense of a clerk. One of the parties does the clerking, without charge, after working-hours are over.

We have two brass-foundries: one operated by Messrs. Kinsey & Mahler, and the other by Messrs. Frazer, Thompson & Co. The business of both these establishments seems to have increased amazingly, since the establishment of our water-works and the extension of the gas-pipes.

We have three establishments in which the manufacture of steam boilers is followed as a business.

The greatest things, however, we have in the way of machine-shops, are the machine-shops of the Toledo,

Peoria and Warsaw Railway Company. In the engine and machine department of that road, or so much of it as lies between the Indiana state line and the Mississippi river, are employed 260 men. Of these, about 195 are employed in and about the machine-shops in Peoria. This force use in a year 21,632 tons of coal. The greater part of this is Illinois coal, obtained beside the road, and costs, delivered in the cars, only eight cents a bushel, or $2.00 per ton. This coal, for most purposes, is as good as any, but for some purposes it is not, and they consume in a year about 350 tons of Pennsylvania coal, of a kind called Blossburg coal. This costs them, delivered here, about ten dollars per ton.

The shops do the mending for the road, and occasionally manufacture a car or locomotive engine.

I have not the means of showing the amount of machinery made at Peoria; but the following is a correct statement of the number of pounds of merchantable castings made by the Voris Steam-Engine Works during each month of the year 1869. The aggregate shows an increase over the previous year's business, which is especially gratifying in view of the general dullness of the times. It is proper to be understood that this establishment does not do any agricultural work, consequently the winter months are the dullest, and the spring and summer months the best of the year.

January	63,410
February	45,598
March	41,258
Carried forward	150,266

Brought forward	150,266
April	37,654
May	61,888
June	84,913
July	73,723
August	59,102
September	72,556
October	73,899
November	40,481
December	35,756
Total for 1869	690,238
" " 1868	544,416
Increase during 1869	145,822

Rate of increase, 27 per cent.

CHAPTER XXIII.

MANUFACTURES. BLACKSMITHS AND PLOW-MAKERS.

It is manifest, from the pieces of iron, etc., found by Mr. Birket, as has been described, that there was a blacksmith here before the building of the Peoria village, burnt by Captain Craig; but I have seen no account any where of the French people ever having had a mechanic-shop here of any kind. Soon after the American population began to settle here, there was an Indian agency established in this place, with a Mr. Graham as Indian

agent; and, pursuant to some treaty, William Holland was established here as an Indian blacksmith. But when I came here, both were gone: Graham to St. Louis, and Mr. Holland to Washington, twelve miles east, where he has lived ever since, and is now eighty-three years old. The only blacksmiths here, when I came, were Alexander Caldwell and John W. Caldwell, two young men from Ohio, who were brothers and partners. They are both yet alive, and follow farming a few miles east of Peoria.

At an early period (I believe in 1834), Isaac Evans, a very good blacksmith, from Pennsylvania, settled in Peoria, and carried on the business for several years, and then removed to Galena, where he and a son-in-law, by the name of John Adams, carried on the plow-making business for a long time. Whether he is there now or not I do not know.

One of our earliest blacksmiths, who carried on the business here, was Philander C. Merwin, from Western New York, or Northeastern Pennsylvania. For several years, he has abandoned the business, and lives on a farm not far below the city.

The first blacksmiths in a country are also gunsmiths: that is, through necessity, they repair guns; but as soon as population has so increased that it can sustain the gunsmith as a separate mechanic, he appears. The first of this class of smiths who settled in Peoria was Mr. George Ford. He came here about 1834, and followed the trade for many years; but, having acquired a competence, he has retired from business. Other gunsmiths have been here from time to time, but the number at present is eight.

When a gunsmith makes his appearance in a place, having tools to suit that purpose, he generally absorbs all of that business, and other smiths quit it; but in Peoria it has not been exactly so. Mr. Whittemore, an old settler, has always done a general repairing business. He has always repaired every thing worn or broken, from a piano-forte to a Jew's-harp; from a crow-bar to a cambric needle, or from a clock to a sun-dial; and his nephew, Mr. Weatherl, is pursuing the same course.

But in the line of blacksmiths there are none who deserve higher compliments for so remarkable success than Mr. Alexander Allison. He commenced here in early times, a poor, but honest and industrious, journeyman blacksmith. He is now a gentleman of large means, and carries on the wagon and carriage making business.

Closely connected with blacksmithing is the plow business. In early times, except a few old-fashioned plows, made by John Birket, the plows used hereabout were manufactured at Pittsburg, and brought on by our merchants, as an article of trade. They were of a very inferior quality, with cast-iron mould-boards that 'would not scour'. In 1843, William Tobey and John Anderson, under the name of Tobey & Anderson, commenced the plow business in a very small way. They were both very poor, too much so to buy ground or even materials, only a very small quantity at a time. Mr. Tobey had been a wagon or carriage maker, from New England, and Mr. Anderson had been a common blacksmith, from Kentucky, but recently from Indiana. They rented a very inferior log building, on Water street. Mr. Tobey did

the wood work, and Anderson the iron work, in the same room. It was an experiment; but they soon, by dint of experiments, obtained a pattern for a plow that excelled all others, and has not since been excelled. They gradually increased their business, until the Tobey & Anderson plow became celebrated all over the West, as far as California. They soon were able to obtain steam machinery to do the work, and to own the houses in which they did it, and the ground on which those houses stood. In short, they became wealthy, and then, as all men are liable some time to do, they both died. But the plow business did not die with them: there are more plows of that pattern now made in Peoria than they ever saw. Their old establishment is carried on by Messrs. Buckley, Hanny, Estes & Co., who generally work from 25 to 30 men. During the last year they manufactured 3,000 plows of all kinds, and about 1,200 cultivators.

But a much larger shop has been established in Peoria, by men who learned the business in the old Tobey & Anderson factory, and who, in fact, under a lease from the proprietors, carried on the business in that establishment; and although they have altogether abandoned the old, and built a new establishment, they advertise themselves as successors of Tobey & Anderson. They do not claim, however, to make exactly the same patterns of plows as were made by the latter, but they claim to have improved on them. Lorin G. Pratt is really the soul of this concern; but, to insure industry and economy in all its parts, he has for some time had three practical men in partnership of the profits, and recently the strong firm of

Plant Brothers, of St. Louis, have taken an interest in the business. It is now carried on in the name of Plant Brothers, Pratt & Co. They generally take a recess during the hot months, but when running they work from 100 to 110 men. They make about 20,000 plows in a year, besides scrapers, harrows, corn-shellers, cultivators, etc. The value of the whole of their manufactures for the year just past was about $250,000.

Other shops have made a few plows, but these two are doing the main business in this city.

Tobey & Anderson did not long live to enjoy their fortune, but they have shed greater blessings on Peoria and the West than the hero of a hundred battles. They gave employment for many years to a large number of men, and furnished our farmers with better plows than they had ever had before. May all the wooden mould-board plows, Carey plows, and bull plows, be built into a monument to their memory.

CHAPTER XXIV.

MANUFACTURES. MILLS.

In 1830, Mr. John Hamlin and Mr. John Sharp built a flouring-mill on Kickapoo creek, three miles, or thereabouts, west of Peoria; and this was the only flouring-

mill that existed in this part of the country for several years. Soon after the mill was built, Mr. Sharp died, and the property, by some means (I suppose by purchase from Sharp's heirs), fell into the hands of Mr. Hamlin, who soon after, I think in the fore part of 1834, sold it to Joshua Aiken. This was a small mill, propelled by the water of the Kickapoo; but it was said to have been capable of making fifty barrels of flour in twenty-four hours. Mr. Aiken added a saw-mill to it, and run both for some time, but finally permitted the stream to undermine them and carry them away; and now a stranger might almost as well seek for the site of Nineveh or Babylon as the site of these mills. And this is the more remarkable, as there were dwelling-houses there, in which the persons lived who owned and run said mills, and all the land thereabout was staked off into streets, alleys, lots, etc., and called Peoria Mills, and a considerable amount of business was done in trafficking in these lots, thirty-four years ago.

In 1838, William Hale (and perhaps others as silent partners) built a flouring-mill further up the creek. This was a good mill, and did much business for many years; but during the whisky mania it fell into the hands of men who turned it into a whisky-making establishment, but too late, for the two-dollar tax going into effect cut off all the profits, and it suffered the fate of a number of whisky-mills in this neighborhood. It was insured beyond its value, then took fire and was burnt down, and now the tall chimney stands there solitary and useless.

Soon after this several steam flouring-mills were erect-

ed. Among those who, in former times, patronized the city in the way of flouring-mills, I would name Orrin Hamlin, John Rankin, James H. McCall, and Isaac Moore, all of whom built flouring-mills that, after doing much service, were burnt down. I should except that of Mr. McCall, for it was burnt down almost as soon as finished.

Those to whom the city is at present mainly indebted for this branch of business are George Field, Frank Field, J. T. Robinson, H. H. Potter, W. M. Randall, Horace Clark, W. T. Hanna, and Henry I. Chase.

The steam flouring-mills now in Peoria are the following:

1st, The Fort Clark Mill, owned by George Field and J. T. Robinson, under the name and style of Robinson & Co. This mill runs eight pairs of mill-stones.

2d, City Mill, which belongs to the same parties, under the same style. It runs five pairs of mill-stones. These two mills, run by the same company, can make 700 barrels of flour in a day of twenty-four hours, and they have actually, on an average, for the last seven years, done a million dollars' worth of business a year.

3d, Diamond Mill, owned by Frank Field, Mr. Russell of Peoria, and Messrs. Potter and Maynard of Massachusetts. Style of copartnership, Field, Russell & Co. This mill has nine sets of mill-stones.

4th, Globe Mill, belongs to the last above-named proprietors, under the same name. They run four pairs of mill-stones in this mill.

5th, Fayette Mill, belongs to H. H. Potter and W. M.

Randall. They do business under the name of Randall & Potter. This mill has five pairs of mill-stones.

6th, Home Mill: Horace Clark, W. T. Hanna and J. C. Kingsbury, proprietors; style of firm, Clark, Hanna & Co. This mill has five pairs of mill-stones.

7th, Chase's Mill: Henry I. Chase, E. D. Chase and P. F. Chase, proprietors; style of firm, Henry I. Chase & Co. They have four pairs of mill-stones.

All these mills use French Burr mill-stones.

When the manufacture of flour was first tried in Peoria, those who undertook it were not only poor, but they managed badly, and their want of success discouraged others, and for a long time it seemed almost impossible to get flour enough made in Peoria for our own use; but since a few enterprising men have been successful in a high degree, the manufacture of flour here has become one of our most important interests.

The failure of persons engaged in the flouring business, in early times, was not owing to any thing inherent in the business, but to want of capital and to bad management. The failure of no manufacturer of flour injured the prospects of Peoria, in that line, more than that of John Rankin. He was a practical man, but he was extremely imprudent, and not only got himself involved in law about his machinery, but he bought up some French claims and delved into law about them, and, after spending a large amount of money, got badly beaten. Had John Rankin paid for his machinery before putting it into his mill, or, being unable to do that, had he obtained time, even upon a high rate of interest, and let specula-

tion alone, he would have made a fortune. For some time afterward he injured Peoria by deterring others from engaging in the business, yet temporarily he was of great benefit to our city. We had in those days no banks nor capitalists, and the transmission of funds to the East, either by the merchants or by lawyers who had collected off them, was extremely difficult. Money would some times lie idle for a considerable length of time, waiting for the means of transmission. When Rankin's mill was finished, it was not paid for, and he was without a dollar to buy wheat, and yet the farmers had plenty of wheat, and were anxious to sell. Captain John Moore had opened a general store of groceries and dry goods in the city. He had not much money nor credit, but found a man in St. Louis who was understood to be in the same situation, but who, however, had a father-in-law, in New York, that had both money and credit. Moore made an arrangement with the St. Louis man to foot all the bills for wheat, by getting his father-in-law to provide for his bills in New York, and, as security and compensation, the flour was to be shipped to St. Louis, and to be charged with a commission. With the merchants and lawyers in Peoria Moore made an arrangement that, as fast as they should receive money they wished to transmit east, they should pay it over to him, and he would procure them a credit in New York. As soon as this arrangement had obtained the confidence of the people, it worked like a charm. The wheat-market became lively, money moved briskly, and the community felt relieved from a great pecuniary pressure. A thousand dollars, which may

have lain in the vaults of a lawyer or merchant a month, waiting for the means of transportation, was, under this arrangement, paid in to Moore, and by him paid to the farmers, and by them paid to the merchant, and so on every day for a month; and in fact, the $1,000, in stead of lying idle, may have paid $100,000 of debts; and who was injured by this routine of credit? The farmer got a sale for his wheat, and got his debt to his merchant paid, and got some goods and groceries. Mr. Rankin did well, for he obtained the profits incident to grinding and shipping the flour. Mr. Moore did well, for he, in paying the men, was generally able to pay a part in goods which they wanted. The Peoria merchants did well, for they got debts paid which otherwise could not then have been paid, and stopped the interest on their eastern debts sooner than it otherwise could have been done. The St. Louis man did well, for he got commissions on all the sales that were made. The New York man did well, for he got commissions on his advances; and the eastern creditors did well, for they got their money sooner than they otherwise could have done.

Our millers now have a more convenient way of working this matter. We have plenty of banks, and a railway communication directly with the eastern cities. They can, in twenty-four hours after buying the wheat, have it on its way to the eastern cities, in the form of flour, and, if necessary, draw on the faith of the bill of lading, and immediately put themselves in funds to buy more wheat. When our people were poorer, in banking and railroad facilities, than at present, we had to ship every thing by

way of St. Louis or Chicago; but our flour and whisky men are now independent of both. They transport flour and whisky daily by rail, without breaking bulk, from Peoria to the eastern cities, and their agents there make sales, and place the money in bank to meet their drafts.

Saw-milling has been abandoned, there not being a saw-mill now in the city.

The first steam saw-mill in Peoria was built by Mr. Wm. W. Williams, or by a man by the name of Baldwin, who immediately sold it to Mr. Williams. At any rate, Mr. Williams operated it a year or two, but did no good with it, and it passed into the hands of Samuel Ward, an English millwright, who turned it into a wind-mill; but he, likewise, did no good with it, and the thing went down. I do not remember whether it was burnt down, or pulled down, or turned into a warehouse, as has been stated. Williams failed because, though a sober man, he was not calculated to succeed at any thing; and Ward failed because he was, all the time he carried on the business, killing himself with whisky, in which latter business he succeeded. There were, however, two steam saw-mills in Peoria once that did much business. The first was built by Mr. James C. Armstrong, whose death took place a few days ago, and was at one time in the hands of Henry S. Aiken and the Bartons; but it afterward fell into the hands of Moss & Bradley, who put a Scotchman named James Smith in charge of it. Smith proved to be the right man in the right place. In a short time it was said that he had made enough of money with it to pay for it, and make himself a third owner. Smith worked

himself, and saw that every body about him worked. He made it a large source of profit; and, but for the interposition of death, the leveler of all things, he no doubt would have become very wealthy. He proved—what the bad management of others had caused to be doubted—that sawing lumber in Peoria was a very profitable business. This mill was on the bank of the river, in the lower part of the city.

Christopher Orr and G. W. Schnebly built, and for several years operated, a steam saw-mill on the bank of the river, at the upper end of the city. They did much business, but I suspect they sold a good deal of lumber to men who never paid them; but probably the 'gold fever' was the principal cause of breaking up the business. When it was the fashion to sell out and go West, Mr. Schnebly did so; but, though he soon returned, the old business was not resumed.

These two mills were of great advantage to the city, even when they were not profitable to those who operated them, and I, who have had an opportunity to know something about this, give it as my opinion that nothing but the bad management of the parties prevented this business from being profitable at all times, and now more so than at any former time; for, although the facility of obtaining lumber by the canal and railroads is now greater than ever before, yet the price of lumber is higher now than before these facilities existed. It is objected that lumber made of our timber is not so good as pine. For some purposes it is not, and for some it is; but for other purposes it is better.

CHAPTER XXV.

MANUFACTURES. DISTILLERIES.

No business that has been undertaken in Peoria has proved to be more profitable than making whisky. In early times, corn was so low in proportion to the price of whisky that any one, without much skill, could have made a fortune at the business; but there were three reasons that prevented that business from being undertaken. 1st, A great deal of pains had been taken, by public lectures and the establishment of temperance societies, to render it unpopular, and to some extent these efforts had succeeded. 2d, There is a general disinclination on the part of men to branch out into a new and untried business. 3d, We were generally scarce of money, and destitute of banking facilities.

However, in 1844, Almiran S. Cole, a man of small means but considerable enterprise, started a small steam distillery, capable of using up only 200 bushels of corn in a day. This step was not looked upon with favor, even by those who had no objection to the business in a moral point of view. His downfall was looked upon as certain. The day of his bankruptcy was considered but a matter of time. He was considerably in debt when he commenced, and that step of folly, as his creditors deemed it to be, at once ruined his credit, and his creditors hurried

to get judgments against him before he would break. And when he got the establishment completed, for want of money or credit, he found great difficulty in running it; and he must have failed, had it not been a remarkably dull time. Many people were out of work, the farmers had no other market for their corn, and were glad to sell at almost any price, even at the risk of not getting their pay. However, he did run his establishment, difficult as it was; he made money rapidly, paid off his debts, filled his cellar full of whisky, and the people all suddenly waked up to a knowledge of the fact that he was getting rich; and had he so continued, he would have become very wealthy. But Sylvanus Thompson, a man of some experience on the subject, and, withal, possessing good credit and some money, saw that there was a fortune in the business, and bought him out. Mr. Cole was not deceived in the business; but, having obtained some experience, he designed to build a distillery three times as large as the one he had sold. For this purpose he purchased ground (whereas in the other case he had only leased the ground) and made some progress toward building a distillery; but, his funds failing, he was delayed a year or two, but finally raised sufficient means to complete it, and it proved a perfect success. Then, pell-mell, every man that could raise the means went into the whisky business — mostly upon borrowed money at high interest.

Finally, by the year 1864, there were no less than twelve of these establishments in the city of Peoria alone, besides several others in the neighborhood owned

and operated by Peorians. Those that were in operation in 1864 were run by the following persons, and of the following capacities:

Charles R. Carroll	600	bushels.
Higbie & Nusbaum	800	"
Clarke & Ely	1,000	"
Moss, Bradley & Co.	1,200	"
Gregg & Cockle	1,200	"
Edward F. Nowland	1,000	"
Sweeny, Littleton & Co	600	"
D. C. Farrell	1,200	"
James G. Spier	600	"
Martin & Eastman	300	"
Lightner & Schimpferman	1,200	"
Thomas S. Dobbins	800	"

The quantity of whisky these establishments threw on the market daily can be calculated with tolerable certainty. They were capable of making, upon an average, fifteen quarts of whisky from a bushel of grain; but it some times happened that some one, for want of a good distiller, or for want of good yeast, fell a little short of this. At the above rate they consumed 10,500 bushels of grain per day. This multiplied by 14½, in stead of 15, will produce 152,250 quarts, or 38,062½ gallons of whisky. To contain this whisky, when reduced to highwines, required 636 barrels daily, and 5,250 bushels of coal. Besides, thousands of beeves and hogs were fattened on the grain after the whisky had been extracted. Take also into the account the great number of men it took to operate all these establishments, and some idea may be formed of their importance to the city. In fact, the lower part

of the city, in which these establishments were located, received a powerful impulse from them, until they were all suddenly brought to a stand, by what is generally called the two-dollar tax. Congress passed a law which, if I remember right, went into effect on the first of June, 1864, laying a tax of two dollars a gallon upon all the whisky thereafter made. The effect of this was to raise the price of whisky on hand suddenly and enormously, so that those who had a quantity on hand, whether by having made it or bought it, would grow suddenly rich. Some congressmen were charged with having voted for the bill with this view, they having gone deeply into the whisky business as soon as they saw the bill would be passed.

The avowed object of this tax was to increase the revenue; but, as every man well informed on the science of government knew would be the case, the revenue was thereby greatly diminished. It is a well-established principle in political economy that no duty should be laid on an article greater than the expense of producing it; otherwise, the great temptation to evade the law will operate as a bribe to men to do so. This being foreseen when such laws are passed, it is usual to provide ruinous penalties to deter men from violating them; but this is beginning at the wrong end. Instead of inducing men to violate the law, and then punishing them for it, they should be induced to respect the law. When a man is brought to ruin for violating a law that is only *malum prohibitum*, many will say 'served him right'; but this man has friends and relatives, and, peradventure, depend-

ents: these become opposed to the law, and influence all they can against it. Finally another is ruined, and the same result follows; and another, and another, until the opposition to the law becomes extensive, if not universal, and no informers can be found, and, if detectives should unearth a case, witnesses could not be found. Then of what avail would be the law? Congress finally waked up to the fact that they were getting but little revenue, and blamed the wickedness of the age, in stead of their own folly. They passed a law reducing the tax, but surrounded the right to make whisky with so many tyrannical and expensive concomitants that it is doubtful whether, even now, any one can make whisky profitably but those who evade the law.

In many parts of the United States whisky was profitably made during the two-dollar tax, but not in Peoria. While the two-dollar tax was the law, whisky could be bought in Peoria, all regularly stamped, as if the taxes had been paid, for a less sum than the tax. Of course, the taxes had not been paid. In some districts distilleries were run as usual, but not so in Peoria. The whole business was broken up, doing an immense damage to the city. It is said, however, that there was an attempt on this side of the river—perhaps more than one attempt—to evade the law, but such results followed that those concerned were convinced of the truth of the old adage, 'Honesty is the best policy.'

Multiply 38,062, the quantity made in a day, in Peoria, before the two-dollar law went into force, by two, and you have $76,125 as the amount that this one interest

was expected to pay every day to the general government; and multiply this sum by 300 as the working days in a year, and you have the enormous sum of $22,837,500 for a year. But Peoria evaded this tax by not making the whisky, while many other places evaded it by making and selling the whisky without paying the tax, and 'Uncle Sam' got poor, while some of his collectors got rich. What a compliment in favor of the collectors on this side of the river.

Could any legislation on this subject prevent men from drinking whisky (certainly a very foolish, if not a wicked habit), we might patiently submit to it, however great the pecuniary loss; but I have not been able to perceive that any legislation affected this habit. After all, the amount of whisky drank is only a drop in the bucket, compared to the quantity manufactured. Just think of the amount made in Peoria alone, before the two-dollar tax went into operation: 38,062 gallons made every day, Sundays excepted, in one little town of 25,000 or 30,000 people!

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES.

BESIDES the above manufactures, various others have been carried on to a greater or less extent. We have always had tailors and shoe and boot makers, who have made a portion of the clothing, etc., for our community; but a large portion of them have always been imported from the eastern cities, as articles of commerce. With regard to hats and caps, much the largest portion has always been imported.

Formerly, Mr. John Ramsey had a small tan-yard and currying-shop, in which he manufactured leather; and Mr. Jacob Shaffner had a currying-shop, in which he dressed leather that had been tanned elsewhere: excepting the small amount of leather furnished by them, all that has been used in this part of the country has been brought from abroad. Several years ago, Mr. Shaffner withdrew from business, and Mr. Ramsey's health failed, and, after several years' affliction, he died, and now no tanning nor currying is carried on here, or hereabout.

Since a pretty early time, we have had abundance of jewelers and silver-smiths here; but their operations have generally been confined to repairing jewelry, watches, and clocks. I do not know that any watch or clock was ever made in Peoria. Almost every house contains a clock, and nearly every man and woman in tolerably

good circumstances carries a watch, and the most of ladies are ornamented, more or less, with jewelry; yet these are all imported into our state, and many of them from Europe.

The same is true with regard to the harness and saddlery business. Although we have always had saddlers and harness-makers, we have always imported a considerable amount of goods in that line of business.

Except a few articles, occasionally made by Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Weatherl, our cutlery and hardware has all been imported.

We are woefully behind the times with regard to the manufacture of woolen goods; and those of hemp, flax, cotton and silk have never been attempted. Many years ago, more than twenty, Henry Hahn, with a set of blacksmith's tools, without any of the ordinary machinery used for that purpose, built a steam-engine, and attached to it a carding-machine, on lot one in block 50, on Water street, and for a time carded wool with it; but after a while it was discontinued, for what reason I do not remember. About the time this went down, two brothers, the two Messrs. Henderson, built a small woolen-mill, which they worked a while, but not to much profit to either themselves or the community. We have now in full operation a clothing-mill, carried on by Mr. Charles Raymond, which is likely to prove a complete success.

No rolling-mill has ever been attempted here, nor machinery for making railroad iron; and, what may seem more strange, we have always imported all our glass, of all kinds.

Our great backwardness in going into these manufactures has been owing, in part, to our want of capital, but it is also owing, in part, to the great disinclination of most people to embark in a new business, to which they are not accustomed. There is, perhaps, no country in the world better adapted to the culture of hemp than Illinois; yet no one in Illinois, with whom I am acquainted, can be induced to raise hemp. Nor is there any better place for the manufacture of whisky; yet, until an imprudent man, as Mr. A. S. Cole was then called, tested its feasibility, no man could be got to go into it. But Mr. Cole having proved it to be a money-making business, many went into it, and, but for the foolish legislation of Congress on the subject, it would be one of the best businesses in the country.

So would it be with several other branches of business, should some enterprising man break the way, and prove their feasibility. Where, on this continent, could glass

On page 142, for "Messrs. Henderson" read "Messrs. McCulloch."

freights, however, is perhaps the greatest argument in favor of making glass here. A large portion, and some times the largest portion, of the cost of heavy articles is on account of freights. Cotton is shipped from Memphis to Boston at a cost much greater than would bring it to Peoria. It is manufactured by machinery propelled by

coal costing three times as much as coal at Peoria costs; by men eating food costing a fourth more than food at Peoria would cost; and then sold to us at a price that pays all these charges, and a profit to all concerned. Why not ship the cotton here at once, and save the extra expense of getting it to Boston, and the freight from Boston here, and the difference between the coal and food here and at Boston? Besides, patriotism—self-interest—prompts us to give employment to our own men, in preference to those abroad; or, if we lack competent men, to cause them to emigrate, with their families, to help build up our city.

We have always had carpenters and house-joiners, but formerly it was a part of their business to make the doors and sash, and plane and tongue-and-groove the flooring by hand. All the machinery by which these things are now done is of modern invention; and as we had no poplar nor pine before the canal and railroads were made, to operate by hand on oak and walnut was a tedious and tiresome business. So hard was the wood that we used for floors, and so tedious was the operation of planing and tongueing-and-grooving such lumber, that I gave a man a cow to lay the floor in my kitchen, a room eighteen feet square from out to out. That floor, however, has been scrubbed and walked on for nearly twenty-six years, and is worth more now than a new pine floor.

Now, the making of sash and doors and the planing of boards for joiner work are a separate trade. No carpenter or joiner would now think of making his own doors and sash, or planing his joiner lumber, any more than a

shoemaker or saddler would think of tanning the leather used in the course of his business.

The following are the principal carpenters and joiners in the city, and some of them are good architects: Chas. Ulricson, Valentine Jobst, Joseph Miller, sr., Henry Jacobs, McKenzie & Eckley, William Comegys, M. F. Meints, John Waugh, E. Baldwin, Ruley & Bro., Todhunter & Son, J. Buell, D. J. Bracken, W. J. Gardner, G. Herwig, Peter Blumb, Bramble & Lynch, Petherbridge & Stonier, G. L. Ryors.

The following men have figured as carpenters and joiners in this city, but their names are not in the above list, because they have all gone to 'that bourne from which no traveler e'er returns', viz., Henry Gilbert, George W. Reed, Chester Hamlin, Thomas J. Hurd, David Markley, John S. Pierce, and Daniel Brestel.

There are three principal planing-mills here, where materials are prepared for the house-joiners, and where sash and doors are also made on a large scale. They are owned and operated by Mr. William Truesdale, Mr. D. J. Bracken, and Messrs. Hicks & Herschberger. Some others make doors and sash, but on a smaller scale.

A planing-mill has also lately been put in operation, on Washington street, by Messrs. Shield & Izatt.

Of late years, the making of corn-planters has become a very considerable business with us. Messrs. James Selby & Co. do the largest business in this line. They tell me they work from fifty-five to sixty men, and that they made last year 1,600 planters, and only worked

eight months in the year; and they sell all they make, at wholesale, for $60 each.

Messrs. Hearst, Dunn & Co., and Messrs. Nicol, Burr & Co. (see Chap. XXII), are also carrying on this business, to a considerable extent, and all have machinery adapted to each particular thing, so that steam is made to do nearly all the work. Messrs. Hearst, Dunn & Co. also carry on the manufacture of saws and sickles for reaping and mowing machines.

In the millwright business none have obtained a greater degree of public confidence than Mr. George Greenwood, Augustine Greenwood, and I. G. Reynolds. The latter also carries on the manufacture of mill-stones.

The manufacture of starch here, in the midst of the greatest corn-producing region in the world, seemed for a while to be a failure; but, under the management of Mr. E. S. Willcox, it promises to be decidedly a success.

Ever since the Germans began to settle in Peoria, the manufacture of beer has been deemed essential. Frederick Miller is the pioneer in this business. At a very early day, I judge about thirty-three years ago, he established a brewery, and for some years had the whole business in his hands; and had not much to boast of at that, for there were but few Germans here then, and the Americans had not learned to relish 'lager'. But the Germans have greatly increased since then, and many of the Americans, English and Irish have proved to be apt scholars in learning to use this beverage, and Friend Miller no longer has the whole thing his own way. There are now several breweries in the city, one, at least, of which makes more beer than Mr. Miller ever made.

The following-named persons are in the brewery business, viz., Lutz & Lincoln, Gipps & Shurtleff, Joseph Huber & Son, Sehmer & Fuchs, Wichmann & Co., and C. Bitz.

CHAPTER XXVII.

RAILROADS.

It is only lately that railroads came into use any where. In the winter of 1836–'7, the legislature of Illinois ran wild on the subject of internal improvements; and, although we had not a dollar in the treasury, nor a man who had had any experience in railroading, and but few who had ever seen a railroad, they passed a law to make many millions of dollars' worth of railroads, checkering up the state like a chess-board. The state depended upon English capital for all this; and so good was the credit of the young state, that capital enough for any reasonable amount of railroads might have been obtained, and in fact was got, but all that was obtained was nothing to the amount required to complete so many and so great works. If one road at a time had been completed, the people at home would have had greater faith in railroads, and capitalists abroad would have had more confidence in our rulers; but this was not the plan adopted. Men

were set to work on every road, all over the state, and immense amounts of money were expended, without any returns. Confidence was lost in our rulers, and no more money could be obtained, and the whole thing burst up like a mighty bubble—like John Law's financial operations. Under that law, Peoria county had a considerable amount of grading done, on what was called the Peoria and Warsaw Railroad, but not a mile of road finished.

For several years the people were much disgusted with railroads; but in process of time this feeling wore away, and on the 12th day of February, 1849, the legislature granted a charter to the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad Company, by which charter they were authorized to build and construct a railroad from the City of Peoria, on the Illinois, to the town of Oquawka, on the Mississippi river. Any one acquainted with that part of the country can see at once that Burlington was the natural terminus of this road, on the Mississippi, because it was a larger place than Oquawka, and because it was a much better place to cross the river; but there were influences brought to bear on the legislature, in favor of the latter and against the former, on account of which the bill could only be passed with Oquawka as the terminus. But the bill having been passed, and those influences becoming less potent, the legislature, on the 10th day of February, 1851, amended said charter by a clause permitting said company to make a branch of said road to Burlington. On the 20th of June, 1851, the stockholders of said company met at Knoxville, and organized under said charter; and on the 22d of June, 1852, said charter was amended so as

to permit said company to extend said road east to the Indiana state line. Burlington being the point desired by capitalists, they made the road to that point, but not, to this day, to Oquawka; and as no time was prescribed within which the road should be completed to reach Oquawka, I imagine it will never reach there. The road from Peoria to Burlington is 93 miles, from Peoria to the state line 100 miles, and from Peoria to Logansport 173 miles. Through much tribulation, and a considerable amount of rascality, this road was finally worked through, and has become a good and profitable road. A great drawback to it, however, is the fact that it was broken in two at Peoria, and the western end fell into the hands of the road now called the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road. This was done by said corporation obtaining a majority of the mortgage bonds that had been issued by the Peoria and Oquawka road, and foreclosing them, and buying in the westerly half. It would seem manifestly the interest of Peoria to have this whole road under the management of one board of directors, so as to have the trains run through without a change of cars or want of proper connection at Peoria. But the managers of the C., B. & Q. road (as it is now universally abbreviated) have been charged with constantly discriminating against Peoria, and purposely running their trains so as not to connect with those on the eastern end of the road, and with carrying produce away from Peoria much more cheaply than to it. This course not only created great dissatisfaction with the people of Peoria, but it caused the owners of the eastern end to put forth so much ex-

ertion as to extend their road through to the Mississippi, at Warsaw and Keokuk. And, moreover, said road, which is now called the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw Railway, is so managed that passengers and freight can pass through from Peoria to Toledo with only one change of cars or freight, and to New York, or Springfield, Mass., without any change at all. Still further, the President of the T., P. & W. Railway, as the other road is called, tells me that he has made such arrangements with parties in Iowa that he will, in a short time, have trains running through southern Iowa to Nebraska City, on the westerly bank of the Missouri river, and that too without involving the City of Peoria a dime; so that the opposition of the C., B. & Q. road to Peoria has redounded greatly to our interest.

The City of Peoria took stock to encourage the building of this road (east and west) to the amount of $225,000, all of which has been lost; but the people were not so much incensed at losing so large amount of stock as at the belief that a company who had swallowed up the stock should, in transacting business, discriminate against them.

With regard to the Bureau Valley Railroad, the city has been more fortunate. It subscribed $50,000 to that road, but made a permanent lease of it to the Rock Island road on such terms as to lose nothing, but actually to make a little money. That road has been well managed, to the satisfaction, so far as I know, of every one.

We have a railroad now in successful operation from Peoria to Jacksonville, and through certain connections to St. Louis, that has cost the city nothing.

A railroad is now being built from Peoria to Rock Island, for which the city has subscribed, and has to provide for, stock to the amount of $100,000, and the County of Peoria, including the city, $100,000. Of this, about $60,000 falls on the city to pay.

A railroad was projected from Peoria to Hannibal, and to procure the making of this road the County of Peoria involved itself to the amount of $75,000. Of this about $45,000 falls on the city to pay. This road, however, has never been made, and probably never will be.

A company has been incorporated to construct a railroad from Peoria to Decatur, of which Hon. John T. Lindsay, of this city, is President, and he assures me it will be speedily built. If it shall be built, the City of Peoria, by a vote of the people, has agreed to pay $100,000 toward the expense of it.

This company is called the Peoria, Atlanta and Decatur Railroad Company. The following is the Board of Directors, viz.: John T. Lindsay, *President;* J. C. Prescott, William H. Cruger, Robert G. Ingersoll, Seth Talbot, A. Dills, W. Dunham, H. Armington, T. Tolland, O. Smith, J. Milligan, *Directors;* S. H. Carter, *Engineer.*

The reader here again will please turn to his map, and see the situation we soon will be in: at least, the situation we are now in. When at the map before, we discovered a fine country, and one of the finest navigable rivers in America, and in that river a beautiful expansion called Lake Peoria, and at the lower end of that lake the town-site of Peoria. Now behold five railroads completed, and in full operation, all centring here, and two not

completed, but both expected soon to be. The road from Peoria to Bureau Junction connects with the Chicago and Rock Island road, forty-nine miles northeast of Peoria, and the Peoria and Rock Island road will soon be in connection with the Pacific Ocean. From the map you may see that it crosses the C., B. & Q., besides others in Iowa. The T. P. & W. road, besides the advantages above named, crosses the Illinois Central at Gilman and El Paso, and the Chicago and St. Louis road at Chenoa; and west of the Illinois it crosses a branch of the C., B. & Q. road at Canton, and the principal C., B. & Q. Road at Bushnell. The Peoria and Oquawka road, which has become a branch of the C., B. & Q. road, intersects a branch of the same at Yates City, and the principal road at Galesburg. The Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville road intersects the Toledo, Wabash and Western road at Jacksonville. The Peoria and Rock Island road, besides crossing the C., B. & Q., will have, at Davenport, connections with all the Northwest. Mr. Lindsay's road, besides crossing the Jacksonville, Petersburg and Tonica road and the Chicago and St. Louis road, will have direct connection, at Decatur, with all the South and Southeast.

While I have been writing these chapters, the C., B. & Q. R. R. Company have quietly been building, and have completed, a branch of their road from Elmwood to Buda, through the back part of Peoria county, making, by means of their other roads, another tolerably direct route from Peoria to Chicago, and bringing the immense coal-fields of Peoria and Fulton counties into connection with the Chicago market.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

LIGHTS.

In early times tallow candles were used, more than all other things, to light our houses of nights; but, in process of time, stearine candles and lard oil, to a considerable extent, took their place. By-and-by spirit-gas, and then kerosene oil, became to be much in use; but they proved to be dangerous, as well as unfashionable, and coal-gas, has well-nigh superseded them all.

In January, 1853, the legislature incorporated the 'Peoria Gas-Light and Coke Company'. Soon afterward a company was organized in pursuance to that charter. They commenced supplying the central parts of the city first, and, as they progressed in laying down the gas-pipes, they superseded all other kinds of light; but, as the city is spread over a large space of ground, and the population is too sparse in the suburbs for it to pay well to take gas to them, there are many yet in the city who are deprived of the benefits of this modern invention. It is now, however, so far extended that in all the thickly-settled parts of the city the people enjoy this comfort, not only in the streets, but also in their houses.

It was originally supposed that the coal for the manufacture of this gas would have to be brought from Eastern Ohio or Western Pennsylvania, because the vein of

coal generally used here for heating houses and propelling machinery contains too much sulphur to answer the purpose of making gas. It has, however, for several years been known that another vein of coal, lying higher and a little further off, answers well for gas-making. This costs a little more than the common kind, but it is much cheaper than that brought from abroad. After the gas is extracted from the coal, it is still valuable as coke, and for some purposes more valuable than the coal.

This luxury, however, is exceedingly expensive. Like most modern improvements, it was recommended as a matter of economy; but, upon trial, I think it the most expensive plan of lighting a house or city that has ever been contrived. The company charges the city thirty-two dollars a year for every street lamp they keep lighted, and they have enough of them for their charge against the city alone to come to $12,000. It should be borne in mind that the lamps do not burn all night, except when it is entirely dark. They are not permitted to burn when the moon is up, although, by reason of clouds, it be dark.

They charge individuals $3.50 per 1000 cubic feet. At this rate, to light a private residence costs from ten to fifteen dollars per month—say $150 a year; but this is small compared to the amount it costs to light machine-shops, stores, saloons, public halls, etc.

CHAPTER XXIX.

BOATING.

In early times there was but little boating on the Illinois, because there was but little to bring to the country, and less to take out of it. There were plenty of Indian canoes here, in those days; but when the Indians disappeared, canoes were not long disappearing. When white men had to do the work of making their small craft, they preferred making skiffs. Those who have never been accustomed to canoes will think this was a great change for the better. When timber became valuable, it was as a matter of economy, for each canoe required a whole tree, and a large one at that. Otherwise the canoe was the better boat for the Indian and the backwoodsman. Those accustomed to them could run them with great speed, and were in no danger of capsizing them.

Pirogues and Mackinaw boats had been discontinued before I arrived. Several flat-boats (broad horns) were run out of the river with produce, in early times, but the steamboats soon superseded them. The Messrs. Voris built two or three flat-boats, on the bank of the lake, between Main and Fulton streets, about the years 1834 and 1835. I believe they built one as late as 1840. They carried mostly pork, but some whisky and other articles of country produce. Steamboats could have been ob-

tained to carry the produce, but the other mode was thought to be cheaper; and besides, it gave the owner the choice to stop wherever he could find the best market.

On the 10th of March, 1832, I arrived on a steamboat from St. Louis, which was the first that had been up, or that could come up, on account of the lateness of the ice in the river. It often happens that the river is open in January, as far up as Peoria; but that winter it froze up about the 25th of November, and so remained to the 10th of March, and but for a strong south wind which blew all day and broke up the ice, the steamboat could not have got in on that day.

The winter of 1835–1836 was worse than this. The ice then became solid (if I remember correctly) on the 15th of November, and so remained until the 15th of March; but these were exceptions.

I remember a steamboat coming from St. Louis to Peoria in the spring of 1832, of which one Smith, a man of showy appearance, was captain. Who he was I do not know, for I have never seen him since. Shortly before this, say in November, 1831, Snatchwine, an Indian chief of the Pottawatamie tribe, whose village was about a mile above Chillicothe, had died, which threw the band into much grief, and some confusion. He had a son, a larger and a better looking man than Pottawatamies usually were; but, like many other Indians, he was a drunken fellow. For this or some other reason his authority was not much regarded by his tribe; yet he felt his consequence, and concluded to pay a visit to Captain Smith, on his boat. He had to walk a long plank to get

on board. Before he was quite at the upper end, some mischievous fellows turned the plank, and threw him into the river. He came out perfectly wet, and in a high rage. The spectators began to reflect on what had been done, and became alarmed lest he and some of his tribe, who were near, might get up a row, and burn the boat or village; but no one present could understand a word he said, nor could he understand a word they said. In the mean time, Captain Smith, who was some where in the village, and heard of the muss, made his appearance, and pacified the Indian, by apologizing in a bland and familiar manner, in a language he did not understand a word of. The Indian's wrath cooled down, and he became mild and good-natured, and I presume expressed his satisfaction in Pottawatamie, for he said much in a calm tone, that no one understood. Tone and gesture did the business.

As time progressed, the business of the city greatly increased; and as there were no railroads in those days, the business of the city was done by steamboats. Drown's Directory for 1851 speaks thus of the steamboat business previous to that year: "The first steamboat that arrived at Peoria was the Liberty (formerly known as the Native), in the month of December, 1829. In the spring of 1830, Mr. John Hamlin went to St. Louis to make purchases to return to Peoria. He chartered the S. B. Triton to bring up his stock of goods. This was the second steamboat to this place. In 1832 the Fairy made a trip, and a contract was made by Mr. Hamlin to purchase one half of the boat on her return and delivery;

but in a short time thereafter she was lost, near the mouth of the Missouri, on her upward trip. In 1833 three steamboats were running on the Illinois to this place, viz., the Exchange, Utility, and Peoria. In 1834 there was added to these the Express, Herald, Argus, and Winnebago. Others were added, as the commerce on the river increased, and in 1840 there were forty-four; in 1841, the number was sixty. From that time up to 1844 they had increased to one hundred and fifty different boats, seventeen of which were regular packets: and the number has been increasing ever since. Some of our citizens have become owners and part owners in some of them. In the spring of 1848, our enterprising citizen, Captain W. S. Moss, purchased the hull of one of the burned boats at St. Louis (the Avalanche), and had it towed up to Peoria. He had her put upon the stocks, about twenty feet added to her length, and completely rebuilt by Peoria workmen, and ready for the fall trade of that year. The next spring, 1849, the keel of another steamboat was laid in Peoria, and furnished with the engine of the Oregon, which had been wrecked on Beardstown bar. The boat was commenced by Captain David Brown, who sold her before she was finished, and is called the Kingston, at which place she is owned (about 18 miles below this), and is engaged in the coal-trade, and towing canal-boats from Lasalle and intermediate points to St. Louis."

He then goes on to give a list of all steamboat arrivals and departures during the year 1850, and the tonnage of all those boats, from which it appears that there were, during that year, engaged in the Illinois trade, as high

up as Peoria, 59 steamboats, whose tonnage was rated at 9,463 tons, at ship carpenters' measurement; whereas it was well known that boats carry about a third more than the estimated tonnage, and that they carry much more down stream than up stream. And that the number of steamboat arrivals at our quay had been 1,236; about 300 more than there were in 1847. In addition to this, we had had more than double the number of canal-boats.

Since that time, however, although the business of the country has immensely increased, yet railroad facilities have so far kept ahead of this increase that the steamboat business has greatly fallen off. Now there are only four regular boats running between Peoria and St. Louis; three of them only running as high up as Peoria, but one runs farther up, generally as high up as Lasalle. There are, however, generally about eight steamboats of a less expensive class, called tow-boats, the main business of which is to carry freight, partly in their holds, and partly in canal-boats and barges. They, however, carry some passengers.

Compare the above with the following article taken from Drown's Almanac and Business Directory for 1851, and remark the contrast, and remember that the business of the country has greatly increased since then:

"By this list it will be seen there have been fifty-nine steamboats engaged in the trade of the Illinois as high up as this city, whose tonnage is rated at 9,463 tons at *ship carpenters' measurement;* but it is a well-known fact that our steamboats will carry about one-third more than the estimated tonnage, and also they carry much more down stream than up. There have been 1,236 ar-

rivals of steamers at our wharf the past season, about 300 more than there were in 1847. In addition to this, we have had more than double the number of canal-boats. It will also be seen that this list does not take into account *barges* and *flat-boats*. I think the amount of produce exported from Peoria has equaled that of any preceding year, and it is well-known that our importations, including merchandise, lumber, etc., have been quadrupled."

NAME OF BOAT.	TONNAGE.	TRIPS.
Alleghany Mail	77	2
Lamartine	175	4
Daniel Hillman	145	42
Pioneer	209	30
Falcon	144	76
Mountaineer	213	60
Kingston	145	72
Archer	148	30
Planter	200	48
Martha No. 2	177	18
Lightfoot	155	4
Movastar	140	60
Avalanche	220	77
Senator	121	32
Prairie Bird	215	56
Tiger	83	28
Andrew Jackson	290	12
Connecticut	249	56
Robert Fulton	200	28
Ocean Wave	205	66
Schuylkill	272	6
Enterprise	200	2
Wyoming	198	2
Carried forward	4,181	811

Brought forward	4181	811
Alliquippa	215	8
Buena Vista	266	4
St. Croix	160	16
Laurel	80	10
Citizen	171	2
Beardstown	80	40
Gov. Briggs	91	6
Jewess	220	18
Alvarado	135	22
Niagara	215	12
Susquehanna	142	14
J. J. Crittenden	225	2
Caleb Cope	80	40
Belmont	115	36
Gen. Gaines	160	12
Time and Tide	261	6
Eureka	115	26
Piasa	85	6
Magnet	98	8
Pearl	54	4
Comet	116	18
Financier	125	18
America	145	30
Uncle Toby	109	2
Hudson	95	16
Prairie State	288	44
Kentucky	140	22
Daniel Boone	170	2
Mary Stevens	225	4
Newton Wagner	105	6
Visitor	141	2
Mary Blain	181	2
Oswego	187	4
Clermont	112	1
R. H. Lee	180	2
Total tonnage and trips	9463	1236

CHAPTER XXX.

SHADE-TREES, FRUIT-TREES, AND SMALL FRUITS.

PEORIA is not so well supplied with shade-trees as it ought to be. This is mainly owing to two reasons: 1st. We have generally been cursed with ignorant engineers, who, in grading the streets, in nearly all cases, took the sidewalks down, when they would have been better as nature made them, and thus many trees were destroyed, after we had waited years for them to grow. 2d. Our first shade-trees were generally the black locust, which had always been a thrifty and healthy tree; and they grew remarkably well a few years, but lately we can not raise them at all. I had on my premises, I suppose, a hundred, all of which were destroyed by worms. Since that several other kinds of trees have been found to succeed well; but I believe the favorite, at this time, is the soft maple. The hard or sugar maple makes a beautiful tree, but where the land is sandy it is a slow grower. The silver poplar is a fast grower, and a handsome tree; but it sprouts as badly as the black locust, and some times the same or a similar worm attacks it. The honey locust is not attacked by the borers, and it is a hardy, thrifty tree.

Every man of taste desires a small garden and orchard about his house, if he has ground enough for that purpose. Every part of our soil is well adapted for this purpose,

but that on the bluff is the best. The top soil is good enough any where, but there is a portion of the city based on clean, dry sand: fruit-trees of no kind do so well here as where the foundation is clay. The trees when young will do well enough where there is sand below, but when the roots have penetrated into the sand, they become sickly, and some times die. Perhaps in this statement I should except pears. I am inclined to think they will do better here than in the black, rich prairie. They are not subject to the blight here as they are there. Some years ago, when the blight was fatal in some neighborhoods, we had but very little of it, and, for twelve or fifteen years, I have not had a case of it. I would therefore say that pears succeed remarkably well in Peoria.

Apples do well on the bluff, but only tolerably well below. Like other parts of the state, we have a kind of worm, called borers, in the trees, and a different kind that eats into the fruit; yet we raise a considerable quantity of excellent apples.

Plum-trees do not generally do well. Some do not grow well in our soil, and others are destroyed by the worm called curculio. Often the aphides, or tree-lice, injure the trees, but the borer never does. Perhaps I ought to except out of this general condemnation the green-gage plum. It generally grows well, and bears well, but it some times suffers from cold.

Peaches, apricots and nectarines are not worth raising here. The soil is congenial to them, but the peaches are constantly preyed upon by the borers, and all are liable to be frozen to death, any cold winter; and when the

weather is not cold enough to kill the trees, it will some times kill the fruit in the bud, so that, although the trees will live, and grow in the spring, they will not bloom, and some times the late spring frost kills them in the bloom. I have, however, once seen fine apricots and nectarines grow in this city; and I have several times seen fine crops of peaches here. The failures, however, have been so great that all, so far as I know, have quit trying to raise apricots and nectarines. A few peach-trees are still cultivated, and, when they do bear, bear well.

Quinces have been pronounced a failure here; but I think it is owing to a mistake in bringing them from the North in stead of from the South. An impression prevails that our climate is too cold for them. My opinion is that it is not the cold of winter that injures and some times kills our quince-trees, but the dry, hot weather of August and July. My first quince-trees were from the North, and they grew badly, and bore no fruit. Those I have now are from the South, and, though they do not do well, they do better than the others did. I now get some fruit, and hope we will yet get a kind that will do well.

Cherries, except the morellos and the early Richmond (called by some early May), have proved a perfect failure. All kinds grow well a while, but some will die before they bear, while others will bear a year or two and then die. The morello is healthy, and leaves very well, and the fruit is generally perfect. The fungus or black smut on the twigs, that has ruined the morello cherries in Maryland and Pennsylvania, is unknown in Illinois. The early Richmond is always healthy, and bears full every

year. No one who has a rod of vacant ground should be without a tree of this kind. Any man who has a morello tree can graft it with this kind. There is a prejudice against this, and some nurserymen deny grafting on morellos: but I presume they all do it, for all the trees of this kind, that I have seen, send up morello sprouts. This, in fact, is the greatest objection to them, but it is not insuperable; it only requires to cut them off twice a year—in April with a grubbing-hoe, just under the surface, and in July with a scythe, as low as convenient.

Grapes, of the American kinds, generally do well in our city. Some times the Isabella and Catawba need protection from the cold, but they generally can bear our winters without covering. When they do not get killed, they bear very fine fruit. They are seldom affected by any disease, such as the mildew or rot. There are several new hardy kinds, that are said never to need covering in this place. I apprehend no European kind would succeed here. I once planted the seeds of a very fine grape from Spain. They grew, but did no good. After looking sickly for two or three years, they all died, without ever have borne a grape.

The small fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries, succeed well, in every part of the city and neighborhood; but the currants, in my opinion, do better on the bluff, and the gooseberries on the sandy land below. The mildew, that is so fatal to the latter in the black, rich prairies, has never injured mine, in the sandy land. I have gooseberry bushes that are more than twenty years old, that have borne full every

year for twenty years, without having been mildewed once. I have been told, however, that cuttings taken from my bushes to richer and moister lands have proved subject to mildew. For some reason, that I can not explain, raspberries formerly did well in my garden, but finally all died out. When mine first began to die, those of my neighbor, Mr. Voris, were healthy; but after a while his died also. Last spring I procured and planted others, and will soon see whether my land has permanently become incapable of bearing that kind of fruit. Blackberries do well in Illinois generally, but not in the sandy parts of the City of Peoria. The above fact with regard to raspberries is not new in the science of vegetation. A species of grass or weed will some times overrun a piece of ground, and keep possession of it for several years, and then, without any seeming cause, disappear.

CHAPTER XXXI.

WATER.

Peoria has never been much afflicted for want of water. Should every other resource fail, the Illinois river, at hand, is inexhaustible. In old times there were springs of clear, cool water issuing from the bank, between high and low water, all along in front of the town-site; and as

the first inhabitants settled near the river, they were thus well supplied. As they began to settle farther back, wells were dug. They found no difficulty in this, as far back as Washington street. It was found that every where between the bluff and river the earth was full of water, to the level of the water in the river, and that, that far back, it was not so deep but that an ordinary pump would reach it, and the composition of the soil was such that it would not cave in while digging. On and further back than Adams street, the depth became too great for a suction pump, being from sixty to seventy feet. Besides, the earth, at a distance of about four feet, became dry running sand, that endangered the well-digger, and required him to put in curbing as he went down. To accommodate those who lived on the high sandy ground, cisterns were resorted to by all who could afford the expense. The poor, who could not afford the expense of cisterns, some times had to pay the drayman to haul them water. Those along the bluff were accommodated with water by small springs that occasionally are met with, issuing from the bluff.

It being early known that a part of the city would suffer inconvenience on account of the difficulty of digging wells, and drawing water from them when dug, men began to look out for some better way of getting water. So long ago as 1833, Stephen Stillman, a man of some enterprise, but entirely void of efficiency, on account of an inordinate habit of drinking ardent spirits, attempted to bring water from a spring which issued, and perhaps still issues, from the bluff, in front of the old Frink resi-

dence, now in the possession of Dr. Cooper. At the March term of the county commissioners' court, in 1833, an agreement was made between them and him, "his heirs, executors, assigns or associates, who shall have the exclusive privilege to bring water on to the public square," in lead, wood or other pipes; which was to be completed about the first of June, 1834. The principal object the county commissioners had in view was to obtain water to make mortar for the court-house they were about to build. Stillman used wooden pipes, bored by hand. These 'water-works' fell through almost immediately, probably for want of money and credit on the part of the proprietor. But had he had both, he must ultimately have failed, because of the insufficiency of the supply of water.

Subsequently a company was formed for the same purpose, and they actually excavated and built over, with substantial masonry, a spring which then issued from the bluff in the northeast corner of section 8, T. 8 N., R. 8 E. of the 4th principal meridian, and through substantial leaden pipes they conveyed the water to several families in the city, who still enjoy its benefit; but although this spring is larger than the other, it was soon made satisfactorily to appear that it was entirely too small for general purposes.

Other unsuccessful attempts were made to get up water-companies; but, until the present year, a majority of our people have depended upon cisterns, and water from their house-tops, for a supply of the indispensable element. For the purpose of drinking when one becomes

used to it, especially when (as in Peoria) one has plenty of ice, this is as good as any, and for washing better. The whole town-site, from the bluff to the river, is an alluvial bank of sand and gravel, and is a first-rate filter. At the depth of the river it is always full of water, and no common pump is sufficient to exhaust it; and this natural filter purifies the water of the ordinary impurities, and in fact of foreign matters generally, except lime. All our wells, as well as our springs and the river, have been found to contain in solution a considerable quantity of lime; but as this has been abundantly proved not to be prejudicial to health, it was not this fact that prevented wells from coming into general use, but it was the fact that, further from the river than Washington street, it became, as above stated, very difficult to dig wells, and for the further reason, as also above stated, that, further back than that street, the depth becomes too great for a common pump to operate.

On the 20th day of February, 1869, an act was passed by the legislature granting a new charter to the City of Peoria, by which are granted to the city the most extraordinary powers, on the subject of water-works. They are authorized "To erect and construct water-works, either within or without the corporate limits of said city, for the purpose of supplying the City of Peoria with a sufficient quantity of pure and wholesome water, to be taken from Lake Peoria, or elsewhere"; and, for that purpose, to buy and hold any amount of real or personal property that may be necessary for that object; and to make all rules and regulations about the same they may

think proper; and to "enter upon any land or water, within or without the corporate limits of said city," which is, however, to be paid for, according to the provisions of "An act to amend the law condemning right of way for purposes of internal improvements, approved June 22d, 1852, and the act or acts to which the same is an amendment." To accomplish all which, it is provided that "the city council shall have power to borrow, from time to time, as they shall deem expedient, a sum of money not exceeding $500,000 in all, and issue bonds therefor, pledging the faith and credit of said city for the payment of the principal and interest of said bonds."

But the most noticeable part of said charter is the 9th section of the 12th chapter, which is in these words: "The said city council shall have power, from time to time, by ordinance, to provide for and assess and collect, as water-rents, or assessments, such amounts *as they may deem equitable*, on any lots of land which shall abut and adjoin any street, avenue or alley, in said city, through which the distributing-pipes of the water-works of said city are or may hereafter be laid, which shall have a building or buildings thereon, whether the water from the water-works of said city shall be used in said building or buildings, or on such lot, or not; and the said assessment shall be and become a continuing lien or charge upon all such lots, or buildings situated thereon."

Under this charter an immense amount of money has been borrowed and expended in procuring water for the city, and to a large portion of the city it is now supplied; but the cold weather and a scarcity of funds have

checked the work for the present, but during the next year the water will probably be supplied to all the most populous part of the city.

The plan has not been, as usual, to force the water into a large reservoir on an eminence, from which distributing-pipes carry it to all parts of the city; but a large pipe has been extended into the lake, some two miles above the city, and by a large steam-engine the water is forced through that, and many smaller pipes connecting with it, to all parts of the city, so far as the system has been carried out.

I do not propose to discuss the propriety of these proceedings. But it is proper to state, as a historical fact, that there are those, and they are not few, who think that the whole thing is an unconscionable outrage on the public. They do not see why the city should be run in debt a half a million dollars for that which could be better done for a very small portion of that sum. They do not see why our population, for all time, should be doomed to drink the most filthy water, when pure water can be obtained, any where between the bluff and the river, in an ample quantity, for comparatively a trifling sum; nor do they see why, if they must drink the impure water of Lake Peoria, they might not get it further down, and save the enormous expense of two miles of cast-iron pipe, large enough, and strong enough, to carry all the water that will be needed in this city for all purposes, including that of running mills and machinery; nor do they see the necessity of being at the perpetual cost of keeping on hand an engineer and head of steam to keep on an eternal press-

ure, when, with a reservoir on a hill, one man and engine once a week, to fill the reservoir, could keep on all the pressure necessary to supply every part of the city. But were all this apparent, is there any body that supposes it right to tax a man pay for water who does not use it, whether he fails to use it because he prefers rain water, or well water, or because he belongs to the old company, and has already a supply of spring water?

CHAPTER XXXII.

COAL AND STONE.

In early times there was but little coal of any kind used here. The blacksmiths used a little charcoal, and the tinners and brass-foundry men still continue its use; but there never was much used. The most of people, in old times, warmed their rooms and cooked their victuals with wood (of which we have always had an abundance); but as coal was also abundant, and it took less trouble to prepare it, the use of wood was gradually abandoned, first for heating rooms, and afterward for cooking. When the first steam mills were built, it was thought necessary to have wood to propel them; but that is now an antiquated idea. I know no one who thinks it necessary to have wood fires for any purpose except for cooking, and but few continue to use it for that.

Coal is so abundant, in this neighborhood, that there is no danger of the supply failing in a thousand years. The vein is usually four feet thick, and there is generally slate or stone on top of it. The usual way is to dig horizontally into the hill, leaving some pillars, and putting in some props to protect the miners from the weight above. If a mine happens to have no slate or stone above, it is generally considered troublesome and hazardous, and is abandoned. The coal of the vein generally used is very hard, and has a hill pressing upon it, and the usual way of getting it out is to pick out a little of the coal at the bottom of the stratum, and put in a blast of powder on top, and this will so break it down that crow-bars and picks will easily do the rest.

When it happens that there is not more than eight or ten feet of earth on the coal, the practice is to strip it, as the term is: that is, to take the earth off of a portion of the coal, and then make a row of holes about two or three feet back from the edge, drop a plug of wood into each, and then drive an iron wedge in each plug, by swinging a large hammer and striking each wedge alternately, until all are driven fully down. By this time, it will be seen that there is a small crack running from one wedge to another. Two men, with sharp-pointed crow-bars, can, in a few minutes, pry all that strip off, and then repeat the process.

At present, the amount of coal used in Peoria, to warm our houses, cook our victuals, run our mills, distilleries, and other numerous kinds of machinery, including the locomotives on all our railroads, is very considerable.

Hundreds of families get their entire support by digging coal and bringing it to market. Our foreign trade in coal has never been very considerable, simply because coal abounds in every direction, and to whatever market we carried it, there were others always nearer the market than we, who could undersell us; yet we have occasionally, from the earliest times, sent some coal to the St. Louis market, and since the canal and the railroads have been in operation, we have sent some to Chicago.

The great abundance of coal in the vicinity of Peoria is not a new discovery. The United States surveyor who surveyed the township west of the one Peoria is in, in 1817, made a minute on his field-notes, that are on file in the Surveyor-General's office, that he crossed a vein of coal, in running one of the lines, ten feet thick; and these field-notes I copied from the original, in December, 1833, and have the copy yet. As long ago as the 25th of March, 1836, I surveyed that land and saw that coal. It was not, however, so thick as represented. All the old settlers knew of the existence of coal in these hills, and Mr. John Bowls, as long ago as 1821, dug and took a boat-load of coal from this neighborhood to St. Louis for sale; and Joseph Moffatt, the father of the older Moffatts living below Peoria, and the grandfather of some of the younger ones, and the great-grandfather of the others, dug and took down the Mississippi, to some point below St. Louis, a boat-load of coal, in 1822. The greatest quantity of coal that has been shipped from this county has been taken from a place called Kingston, about sixteen miles below Peoria.

Our coal was said to be inexhaustible, when it was thought we had but three strata of coal; but the Messrs. Voris & Co. have established the fact that we have five. In 1864, they dug an artesian well, across the lake, in sight of the city, in which they found two other veins of coal, of which we had no knowledge. From a long article describing this well, in the Peoria Transcript of April 25th, 1864, I extract the following: "At 120 feet, a four-foot vein of coal was found. At 207, salt water. At 235, another vein of coal, three feet in thickness. At 317, a vigorous stream of salt water, 2½ per cent. strength. At 734, another large quantity of water, containing sulphur, but otherwise fresh. This last water was found in a porous rock, and has increased in quantity as the drill went down. The overflow has become so great that no more drilling can be done until a heavier set of tools can be procured. The upward rush of water is so great that it prevents the 400-pound drill from descending with sufficient force to effect any thing. The sand-pump, with a sixty-pound drill-sinker attached, will only go down about four hundred feet." "The water has been carried up in pipes sixty-five feet above the surface of the well. How much higher it would go there is no means of knowing short of getting pipe enough to run it to the top of the bluff. The first artesian water was struck at 317 feet, in a porous rock, that was 44 feet thick, and in which water was found all the way through. The last vein of water-rock is also porous, and has been penetrated forty-two feet. The well discharges at least 25,000 barrels of water per day." . . . "The total cost of the experiment, including the loss of the old well, is $4,325."

The digging of this well added to our geological knowledge, for the Messrs. Voris & Co. furnished the State Geologist with a specimen of every stratum through which they passed, and it proved we had more coal in Illinois than we had supposed; yet, so far as concerned the purse of Messrs. Voris & Co., I imagine the digging of this well was decidedly a depletory process. The water rushed out at that well boldly and noisily five years ago, and does it yet; but to no purpose worthy of the great bustle and fuss with which it breaks forth. I supposed it would be turned to account to run machinery; or, on account of its supposed medicinal qualities, be the occasion of erecting an establishment for the resort of pleasure-seekers under the pretense of hunting health; but nothing of the kind has been done. The Germans some times have a Sunday beer-party there, and the proprietor of the Peoria House run a small pipe across under the lake to supply his hotel with the water; but whether the Messrs. Voris & Co. ever made any money off the spring is more than I know. Of one thing I am sure, it is a piece of property out of which money could be made; not out of the coal, for that is too plenty hereabout; but out of that well as a mill-privilege and as mineral water.

I am not competent to judge of the medicinal qualities of this water; but it smells and tastes to me like the water of other medicinal springs I have seen, particularly that of White Sulphur Springs, near Warrenton, Va.

Although Philip Renault reported to the government of France, nearly 150 years ago, that there was plenty of copper in this neighborhood, and lead in a certain locality

in Southeast Missouri, and his statement about the lead in Missouri has proved true, none of the present generation has found any mine of copper, or any other metal, in this neighborhood. Besides coal, as above stated, we have abundance of stone in the neighborhood. It is true we bring our stone from Joliet, and beyond there, but that is mainly, I presume, because that stone is more easily quarried than ours, and because that is quarried near the canal and a railroad, whereas all our limestone and most of our sandstone would require from four to seven miles' cartage to reach our city or a railroad. We have a great abundance of sandstone convenient, of a quality well adapted to building. There being some stone in our quarries which, when soaked full of water, will disintegrate by freezing, an early prejudice was produced against our sandstone generally; but every one used to working in stone can easily tell that which is unfit to build with, and discard it. That this stone will stand wetting and freezing, when properly selected, is clearly proved by the fact that the piers of the two bridges across the river here are made of that kind of stone, and have for years endured the weather perfectly well.

We have plenty of limestone within six or seven miles; but, because it is not convenient to a railroad, and does not lie in strata of equal thickness, it has not been much used for building. Much of it is, however, used for lime, and it makes a strong mortar, but is not so white as other kinds; and hence, although much of it is used for walls and plastering, where the color is no object, yet for fine work we get lime from Alton or Indiana.

Another circumstance that has prevented our people from using stone for building has been the fact that brick costs less. We even build cellars of brick, in stead of stone. The first brick made here was made by Hon. Samuel Hackelton, in 1833, for the court-house. Those brick, and the most that have been made since, have been of an inferior quality; but this has not been because good brick can not be made of the clay in our neighborhood. It has been because the demand for brick has been so great that men could find sale for an inferior article, which cost them less expense and trouble. Besides, our people have heretofore been more concerned to get houses *sufficient for our business* than to get *fine* houses. A few experiments, however, by competent persons, have established the fact that superior brick can be made of our clay.

Of late, however, some superior buildings have been erected in our city: some of brick and others of stone fronts. Some of our best brick fronts have been constructed of brick made in this vicinity, while others have been built of brick transported from St. Louis. Our stone fronts, however, have all been made from stone brought down the canal, from Joliet, or beyond that place. That may, in part, be from the fact that the stone in that region is more easily quarried and put into proper form than ours; but I imagine it is more because the people there are prepared with the skill and tools, and habits for the occasion. Like the people of Michigan and Wisconsin, who will saw timber and carry it several hundred miles south and sell it at a profit, to people who have more tim-

ber than they, but who lack the mills and habits necessary for successfully prosecuting the lumber business. There is no lack of timber on the lower half of the Illinois river, and on the lower Mississippi and some of its branches it is more abundant than in the North.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

FERRIES AND BRIDGES.

BEFORE I came to Peoria, there had been a ferry kept by Mr. Sharp, a half-mile or more below the present bridges; but Sharp had died, and the ferry had been discontinued before I came. At the time of my arrival here, Bogardus run the only ferry in this neighborhood, and it was where the upper bridge now stands. There being no buildings or other obstructions in the way, the landing was some times made further up or down, according to the course of the wind, or the desire of the passengers, who wished to go up or down the river. Bogardus did not personally run this ferry, but some times by hired men, and some times he let it by the year. He, however, was never able to hold this ferry in peace, nor was any one else. It was constantly in law as long as it continued. Not only did opposing claimants go to law about it, but they occasionally did some fighting about it.

To detail all the various controversies that were had about this ferry, during its existence, would be exceedingly amusing to a reader of novels, if written by one experienced in that kind of lore; but in this plain matter-of-fact history, I suppose I must omit the most of those matters. Perhaps the indulgent reader will pardon me if I tell two or three anecdotes connected with that establishment. One of the most conspicuous characters hereabout, in early times, was Abner Eads. He was conspicuous because he was one of the '1819' men, and because he was naturally a very enterprising, energetic man; but he had been raised in the backwoods, had little or no education, and knew nothing about the intricacies of the law. On the other hand, Bogardus had been raised in the City of New York, and had studied law as a profession, but knew more about its intricacies than its principles. Both of these men claimed the ferry, but Bogardus had got the inside track. He had obtained possession, and, being in receipt of the profits, he had nothing to say against the law's delays. Eads did not comprehend things mystical so well as things pugilistical. He preferred fighting to lawing, and 'walked into' the aforesaid Bogardus. Now it so happened, in those days, that a very thick kind of blanket was manufactured for the Mackinaw trade, called hence Mackinaw blankets, and it became the fashion in the Northwest to cut up these blankets for overcoats. Said Eads wore one of these, with great iron buttons bigger than dollars; and the said Bogardus, being afraid of mankind in general, but of said Eads in particular, carried a pair of small

pocket pistols. In the melee, Bogardus was down, and Eads was on top, punishing him freely, as the bruisers would say. Bogardus, who seemed to be 'used up', was all the time getting out a pistol, which he placed against Eads's breast, and fired. The bystanders, who were more the friends of Eads than of Bogardus, and who had not thought it necessary to interfere until the firing of the pistol, were at once greatly impressed with the duty they owed to Christianity and civilization, at once to stop the fight; and Eads, who thought he was killed, and Bogardus, who thought he had killed him, were easily separated. Eads did not wish to receive another shot, and Bogardus, believing the business sufficiently done, did not wish to spend ammunition on 'dead ducks'. Dire confusion prevailed. But when Mr. Eads's wounds were examined, it was found that the ball had not entered the skin: it had spent its whole force on one of those large iron buttons, and had only been able to drive it through the thick overcoat.

Another. After the people in and about Peoria had got tired of fighting and lawing about the ferry, George Depree, as assignee of Isaac Underhill, seemed to be in the perpetual and peaceful possession of the same; and though he commonly had some 'hard cases' about him, he still appeared to be the cock of the walk. He was a broad-shouldered, powerful man, with a black, fiendish countenance, who was, and desired to be, feared. He some times acted the part of a generous-hearted man, but his besetting sin was a desire to be feared. In the use of the weapons nature gave him, he was skillful and to be

dreaded; and with a foe thus armed he was no coward. He, however, had a great horror of being shot.

William L. May and Philip Latham finally set up a claim to the ferry. Depree preferred to 'bluff them off' rather than go to law. May & Latham thought it more their interest to drive the occupants to bring suit to test their rights than to sue themselves, and they determined to put in a ferry-boat, in defiance of Underhill's or Depree's rights, and let them sue; but Depree swore they should neither make nor run the boat. Under such a threat, from such a man, there was probably but one man in the country that would have dared to build the boat. That man was John Kelsey. He was a man greatly skilled in 'fisti-cuffs'. He was the terror of the river towns, and had knocked down many a man, and seemed desirous of picking a quarrel with any body but Depree, and Depree seemed anxious to fight any body but Kelsey. This man Kelsey contracted with May & Latham to build the boat, and blood was expected to flow. But nothing of the kind. He built the boat, and Depree, instead of fighting him, said he might build the boat, but that he would kill the man who should attempt to run it. This, some suspected, was a slight backing-down on the part of Depree; but, so high was his character for courage, that most people believed some one would be hurt when an attempt should be made to run the boat. Why Kelsey did not himself attempt to run it I never knew: I suppose, but do not know, that he had become afraid of Depree. William L. May, who managed the business for May & Latham, employed one George H. Quigg to

run the ferry until an injunction should be obtained against running it, or until the charm should be broken. This Quigg was a tall Irishman, with a bold, rather impudent countenance, who had a high opinion of himself, and was greatly desirous that the world should have an opinion of him equally high, especially as to the qualities of gallantry and courage. Some doubts had been raised as to his courage, and it was predicted that Depree would drive him off. When he got ready to start the boat, he did not go as sole guard for his oarsmen, but he took with him a small Irishman, named McCreery, of dark complexion, and darker countenance, in which obstinacy was most strongly portrayed. When he had occasion to go about the ferry-landing, that day, he went no where, and did nothing, without McCreery being by his side. When they first made their appearance at the ferry, Depree's wrath knew no bounds. He swore awful oaths, and made bloody threats; and if the attempt had then been made to run the boat, he would probably have done something desperate. But, although McCreery said nothing, he looked like a viper, and walked wherever Quigg went, with his right hand grasping a cocked pistol, in his pocket. It was generally believed that Depree would shoot Quigg, and McCreery would instantly shoot Depree. Of this opinion no doubt Depree was, for his voice lowered as they were getting ready to start, and finally they pushed off the boat, leaving Depree, with a countenance as black as a western cloud, and muttering bitter oaths, like low distant thunder.

After much wrangling and lawing, Mr. May got the in-

terest of the opposing parties into his own hands, and then, to prevent any future controversy, he obtained from the legislature a charter for a bridge at the same place, and raised funds to build the bridge, by selling stock, with the understanding that he was to have $10,000 of the stock, for his ferry and the charter. The bridge, with its abutments, is 2,600 feet long. It was commenced in 1848, but not finished until Nov. 1, 1849, and is said to have cost $33,000; but neither this time nor price will be understood, without explanation. Before the bridge was completed, a large portion of it, during the high water of 1849, fell down, and the rebuilding of it had to be delayed until the abatement of the high water. Besides, while the bridge was still a steamboat broke the swing-part off; and, because one of the piers had given away a little, they took it down and rebuilt it together with the swinging part of the bridge. Thus much delay was produced; but whether these expenses are included in the cost I do not know, but suppose they were not. A singular piece of stupidity was exhibited on the part of the engineer in building said bridge, and also one on the part of the managers after it was built. For a considerable distance on the east side an embankment was erected, in stead of trestle-work, and the engineer made several sluices for the water to pass through, lest the weight of so much water should carry away the embankment, not once perceiving, what every one ought to have perceived, that the weight of the water below would so far balance the weight of the water above as to preclude any danger of that kind. In time of freshet the water rushed through

the sluices with so great force as to threaten much damage, and they were, one by one, filled up, and it was soon found that the expense of making them was lost labor. The embankment proved to be safer without them than with them.

The other was this: the other part of the bridge, except the swinging part, was covered with thick green white-elm plank, a kind of wood that shrinks and swells a great deal. At first the weather was exceedingly dry, and said planks drew up to their narrowest dimensions. Men were employed with crow-bars to work the planks together and make them tight. In doing so, wherever they had space enough, they put in a four-inch scantling. Afterward there was a long spell of wet weather, and the plank swelled and became very tight, and the bridge began to lean considerably to the southeast. Large props were obtained to prevent the bridge from falling, but the plank continued to swell, and forced the props into the ground, until all that part which was built on trestle-work fell into the water; and during all the time those having charge of the bridge could not see why it was falling.

This was built for a toll bridge, and has to this day, by a kind of common consent, its charter having expired, been continued as such; and has been of immense benefit both to the public at large and to the City of Peoria in particular.

The other bridge, immediately below, belongs to the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw Railway Company. It is well calculated for crossing over railroad trains, but not for any other kind of conveyance.

Two things concerning the building of these bridges are worthy of remark: 1st, The piers are built of the common sandstone of the Kickapoo valley, which many predicted would crumble and fall to pieces; but experience has shown there is no danger of this, provided the better quality of sandstone be used. Nor were these piers built of solid blocks of stone fitted together. An outside ring was dressed and fitted together, and laid in hydraulic-cement mortar, and then stone of the same kind, but of any form, were placed in this ring until it was level full, and then thin mortar, made of hydraulic cement, was poured in until all the spaces among these stones were filled; and so on, in like manner, another ring was added, until the pier was of the requisite hight. 2d, These piers were built upon the ground, upon the smooth river-bottom, and many supposed they would sink of their own weight, or the current would carry away the mud and sand on which they were placed and upset them. Soon after the first bridge was built, one of the piers began to lean a little, and was taken down and rebuilt. Excepting that, they have all stood firmly.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

NEWSPAPERS, ETC.

THE first newspaper published in Peoria was a weekly, called the Illinois Champion. Its first issue was on the 10th of March, 1834, by Abram S. Buxton and Henry Wolford. It commenced as a neutral sheet in politics; but its editor, Mr. Buxton, being a decided Whig, soon threw off his neutrality, and came out boldly in defense of the principles of his party. Mr. Buxton had been a partner of the celebrated George D. Prentice, in the publication of the Louisville Journal. Mr. Wolford was a practical printer, and Buxton a ready writer, as well as printer, and the paper was commenced under the most favorable auspices. But Mr. Wolford, for some reason not now recollected, returned to Louisville, in a short time, and has never been back to Peoria, to my recollection. Mr. Buxton fell a victim to that monster destroyer, the consumption. The press and types fell into the hands of Mr. James C. Armstrong and Jacob D. Shewalter, who employed Jerome L. Marsh to carry on the establishment.

In the spring of 1837, Samuel H. Davis, who had published the Winchester Republican, in Virginia, and had also published some paper, not now remembered, in Wheeling, Virginia, came to Peoria, and commenced a

paper called the Peoria Register and Northwestern Gazetteer, the first number of which was issued on the 7th of April, 1837. Mr. Davis, like Mr. Buxton, attempted to publish a neutral paper; but he, being a decided Whig in politics, as soon as a Democratic paper made its appearance in the place, came out a Whig, and as long as he continued to publish it that paper was a strong advocate of Whig principles.

In 1842, the Messrs. Butler succeeded Mr. Davis, and, if I remember right, dropped the latter part of the name, and simply called the paper the Peoria Register. They published said paper about a year, and then it went into the hands of Thomas J. Pickett (the same who was some time colonel of a volunteer regiment, during the war of the Rebellion, and is now postmaster at Paducah, Ky.) Mr. Pickett published said paper until the 26th day of January, 1850. Previous to this date he took into partnership Mr. H. K. W. Davis, a son of Samuel H. Davis, who had formerly published the paper, and they had just commenced, in addition to the Weekly Register, a daily called the Champion. They occupied the second story of a brick building on Main street, between Washington and Water streets, that had been built and occupied by Mr. S. H. Davis, on an alley which Mr. Davis named Printers' Alley. The foundation was of sandstone, badly built. The inside of the cellar-wall was well enough built, but the side next the alley was filled up with spawls of stone, with little or no mortar; and, to make it worse, the brick wall, above ground, in stead of being placed over the better part of the stone wall, was placed

over the worse part, and the brick was even extended beyond this. The joists were placed crosswise parallel with Main street, and would, under ordinary circumstances, have held the building together; but the printers had weighted down the weaker side of the house, with a heavy cast-iron printing-press. The first story of the front of the building was what is called an open front. In stead of iron columns or pilasters, as is now the fashion, square timbers were used, which were framed to a plate, on which the wall stood. This wall, the weight of which was sufficient to hold the first story firm, while perpendicular, would naturally hasten its fall as soon as it was sprung out of a perpendicular position. The first story and cellar had been occupied by William A. Herron, as a drug store. He also dealt in paints, oils, varnish, etc. At the above date he had removed the most of his goods to a new store he had just built, at the corner of Main and Washington streets. It is said he had left in the cellar much straw and other combustible rubbish, used in packing up goods, and also some kind of exceedingly combustible liquid. The second story was used by the printers, and the back part of the building and the third story were occupied by a Mr. Decker as a sort of temperance tavern or boarding-house. A light was seen to glare up in the cellar, and almost instantly an explosion was heard in the cellar, of such force as to drive out into Main street the front timber work. Almost instantly the front on the southeast or alley side came down into the alley. There was no one in the front building at the time (it being Saturday evening) except

William Pickett, the clerk of the establishment and brother of the proprietor, Colonel T. J. Pickett, and Mr. N. C. Nason, who was an employé of the office. Although this explosion and fall were the work of a moment, they gave time enough for these men to have made their escape by an outside stairway; but, after they had run down the stairway, Mr. Pickett said "I will save the books," and stepped back. He was not afterward seen alive, and Mr. Nason barely escaped being covered with the brick and rubbish of the falling house. I was on the ground immediately after the fall, and was shown a large pile of bricks, under which Mr. Pickett had been heard to groan. We attempted to remove them, but the burning paper and combustible part of the house soon drove us away. After the fire had been quenched by the engines, he was found to be dead.

At the same time that we were digging for Mr. Pickett, it was said that, at the moment of the explosion, Mr. James Kirkpatrick, who published a paper, called the Peoria American, on the other side of the square, attempted to run through the alley, and was supposed to be buried some where beneath the rubbish. After the fire had abated, this was found to be true. At the first sound of the fire, Mr. Bearce, a son-in-law of Mr. Decker, who was in the second story of the back building, ran into the main building to see what was the matter, or perhaps to warn the printers of their danger, and had just time to save himself, by jumping from a floor that was falling upon one that did not fall. The back building did not fall, nor become entirely destroyed by the fire, though

both it and the furniture were much damaged. On the next day (Sunday) a great crowd attended the burial of Mr. Pickett and Mr. Kirkpatrick.

On the 20th of February, 1840, John S. Zeiber, who had published the People's Press, in the town of Princess Ann, Somerset County, Md., commenced the publication of the Democratic Press, which he continued to publish until about the 1st of June, 1846. His establishment was then purchased by Thomas Phillips, who had formerly published a paper at Pittsburg, called the American Manufacturer. After Mr. Phillips had published said paper about three years, he sold out to Washington Cockle. This paper was continued by Mr. Washington Cockle until the fall of 1851, when he sold the establishment to Mr. Enoch P. Sloan, who conducted it until the fall of 1856, when he sold it to Mr. Cornwell, who published the paper a while, and then sold out to Mr. G. W. Raney, who had previously commenced a competing paper called the Peoria Daily News. Mr. Raney, some time in the winter of 1857–'8, had the good fortune or misfortune, I know not which, of getting this whole establishment burnt. For the last two years that Mr. Sloan published that paper, he published it weekly, tri-weekly, and daily.

The first daily paper attempted in Peoria was by Messrs. Pickett & Woodcock, on the 28th of June, 1848. The paper was, however, not sustained, and only continued to be published about three months.

Other efforts were made, from time to time, to establish papers in the English language, by Messrs. T. J. Pickett,

H. K. W. Davis, D. D. Irons, G. W. Raney, and others, the history of which I can not state from recollection, and none of them have furnished me with the data to give it. It is worthy of record that, though in early times we had no German papers, yet for a number of years we have had two, all the time—one in the interest of each political party.

At present the following political papers are published in this city:

1st, The Peoria Transcript, published daily, tri-weekly, and weekly, by the Transcript Company.

2d, The Peoria Democrat, published daily, tri-weekly, and weekly, by W. T. Dowdall.

3d, The Peoria Review, just started by a joint-stock company, and published daily, tri-weekly, and weekly. This company has a capital stock of $10,000.

4th, The Peoria Deutsche Zeitung, published by Mr. Fresenius.

5th, The Peoria Deutsche Demokrat, published by Bernard Cremer.

In addition to all these, Mr. N. C. Nason publishes the Illinois Teacher, a monthly octavo pamphlet, devoted to the cause of education. I have before me No. 1 of Volume XVI, this being the sixteenth year of its existence.

He also publishes The Memento, a small quarto, published monthly, and devoted to the cause of Odd-Fellowship. This was commenced in 1854, but it was suspended during the war.

Two of the above offices, to wit, the Transcript and Democrat, are prepared to do, on an extensive scale, all

kinds of job printing, and book-binding. Besides these, we have three job offices, at which books, pamphlets and bills are printed, by Mr. Nason, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Foster, but from which no newspapers are issued. We have, also, two other regular book-binderies here, belonging to Mr. Foster and Mr. Roberts, besides those connected with the Transcript and the Democrat offices.

The paper to supply these establishments, until recently, has all been brought from abroad; our city, till recently, not being able to supply herself with any part of that necessary article. We now, however, have a paper-mill which supplies a large amount of wrapping paper and some printing paper.

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE FRENCH CLAIMS CONTROVERSY.

For many years a controversy existed between the citizens of Peoria and certain speculators. That controversy originated as follows:

There had never been any survey of the French village, nor did they claim title under any government, but were mere squatters, claiming under an act of Congress, approved May 15, 1820, entitled "An act for the relief of the inhabitants of the Village of Peoria, in the State of

Illinois," and another act of Congress, approved March 3, 1823, entitled "An act to confirm certain claims to lots in the Village of Peoria, in the State of Illinois," and the report of the Register of the land-office at Edwardsville,* and a survey that was long after made by Joseph C. Brown, a deputy from the Surveyor General's office at St. Louis; and some times also they claimed under a patent from the United States, issued in pursuance of those laws. For, although the law neither gave the Secretary of the Treasury nor any one else the power to adjudicate between the claimaints and say who, if any, were entitled to patents; yet the Secretary of War did undertake that arduous task, and did issue patents to some, and refuse them to others. The land between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers was surveyed to be given to the soldiers of the war of 1812, as bounties, and this survey was made, and patents were granted to the soldiers, before either of those laws were passed, or said French survey was made; but no fractional sections were granted to the soldiers, and all those lying along the river were fractional and therefore not granted, and were liable to be preëmpted, under the preëmption laws of 1830, 1832, and 1834.

When a preëmption was claimed to any particular piece of land, and the proper proofs of improvements and residence were made before the register and receiver, they had no option. The law required them to let the entry be made, because, whatever opinion they may have had as to the validity of those French claims, there was nothing in their office showing any conflict between

* See Chapter VI, page 21.

any French claim and the land proposed to be entered. Although, when the United States surveys, in 1817 and 1818, were made, so soon after the French had left, their lots might have been connected with the public surveys, yet, as the place was entirely abandoned by the French, and the Americans had not yet found their way here, it was not done. And when the French laid in their claims before the register and receiver at Edwardsville, they probably did not know that said survey had been made. At least, the register in his report says "I have not been able to ascertain, with precision, upon what particular quarter-sections of the military surveys these claims are situated."—*3d Am. St. Papers*, page 422.

All the lands on which any of these French claims were located, by Brown, had been disposed of by the government to other parties, the money paid, and patents issued, and the land possessed and occupied long enough for the statutes of limitation to protect them, were their titles bad. Under these circumstances, and since the excitement of the day had passed away, the reader will wonder how any controversy could have been gotten up sufficient to interfere with the repose of our society. But, strange as it may seem, a controversy was gotten up, which lasted about twenty years, in which the author spent many thousand dollars and much precious time; but those controversies are all happily settled, and we can say to the world buy and build without fear, for our titles are as good now as those of any other city.

This is not the place to discuss the merits of those controversies: suffice it to say that man is a gregarious ani-

mal, not only physically, but mentally. Men are not only inclined to move in masses, but to be affected in masses, as by an influenza. Some times men are generally taken with a religious monomania; some times with a political one; some times with patent-right invention mania; and some times with a gold-mine mania. On this occasion they were taken with a French-claim mania. Men generally believed that every man professing to hold a French claim ought to succeed against any one else, although his claim may have been decided against by government, and he lacked proof to connect him with the original claimant; and although the defendant may have had a patent from the United States, and been in actual possession by residence, for any length of time. The first suits were brought in the state court, and were all successful; but a half-dozen of them were taken to the Supreme Court of Illinois, and *all reversed.* This closed the state courts as to this sort of business. Some suits in the state court were dismissed, and then brought in the United States Circuit Court. A great many new ones were commenced there, and resulted as the others had done, and were carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. Here, although the law was not always laid down correctly, enough principles were settled adversely to the plaintiffs to prevent them from bringing any more suits any where.

This mania, for a few years, was astonishingly great. It pervaded the country generally: it found its way into the jury-box, the bar, and even to the bench. I have known honest jurors to find verdicts against evidence,

and honest judges to overrule the plainest principles of law that have been established since the days of Lord Coke, to aid the speculators in these controversies. I have known a certain speculator in those days to take a surveyor and survey about block 34 (to which he had no more title than the king of Dahomey), and look wise, and say nothing, while all the inhabitants of that block were running out and begging him not to dispossess them, promising submission, and agreeing to pay whatever he said they should. He haughtily replied, "if they had any business with him to call at his hotel." So they did, and he presented them a paper containing a requisition on each of them for an arbitrary sum, such as he thought they could be scared into, and they all, 'every mother's son of them', paid the sum set opposite their names, and thought him a generous-hearted gentleman for exacting no more.

In those days, the best men in the community, without knowing any thing of the merits of the controversy, pitied me if they were my friends, and hated me if they were my enemies, for what they supposed to be an obstinate and mulish disposition. If I am not mistaken with regard to public sentiment at this time, it has entirely changed on that subject. I have been as much flattered and caressed of late, on account of my success, as I once was pitied and contemned for my supposed obstinacy. I hope I have borne both with equanimity.

The quantity of ground in dispute was never so great as the number of suits brought, or the number of claims filed in the land-office, would seem to indicate. The

property was cut up and many more suits brought than necessary, to prevent writs of error to the Supreme Court of the United States; as the land in controversy must be worth $2,000 to give that court jurisdiction. Although the number of claims filed in the land-office was 70, it should be remembered,—

1st, There were not so many *claimants*, for each claimant generally claimed more than one lot, some times several.

2d, There were not as many *pieces of ground* claimed as there were claims, for it often happened that two, under different numbers, claimed the same ground.

3d, A portion of them were located at the *old village*, which had been voluntarily abandoned long before the war, and were not valid claims, under the law, as the Supreme Court of the United States decided in the case of Hall vs. Papin, 24 Howard, 132.

4th, As the said court decided in the same case, said law "applies only to the *new town*, and the land in question is an outlot or field of ten acres, near the old Village of Peoria."

CHAPTER XXXVI.

POPULATION AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

THE first census of Illinois was taken in 1810, when the whole population, including a few blacks, but no Indians, was 12,450. In 1820, it was 55,128. In 1830, it was 158,232. In 1840, it was 471,515. In 1850, it was 876,038: males, 445,544; females, 400,490; excess of males, 45,054.

The population of Peoria county for the first four quinquennial censuses was as follows:

1825, by Bogardus.....1236;
1830, by Isaac Waters.....1792;
1835, by William Compher.....3199;
1840, by A. W. Harkness.....7041.

The census taken by Bogardus included all the country then attached to Peoria—Chicago, Galena, etc.; but the other three included Peoria county as it now exists. Why the county was at the expense of taking the census in 1830 and 1840 is not apparent, for in those years the general government took the census of the whole United States, which, when taken, was at the service of every one.

Some idea may be formed of the advance of population from 1826 to 1843, inclusive, from the following table of the votes cast in Peoria county in those years:

1826, in August.....	184	1834, in August.....	223
1827, " "	17	1835, " "	283
1828, " "	65	1836, " "	294
1830, " "	53	1837, " "	329
1831, " "	100	1838, " "	490
1832, " "	141	1839, " " 1042	

The tables from which the above is taken were professedly deficient as to the years 1829 and 1833, and hence I omit them; and I suppose they are deficient as to the years 1827, 1828, and 1830. In ascertaining the number of population from the number of votes, it is usual to multiply by five; but this rule is not reliable, for voters frequently fail to go to elections. Although at the Congressional election in August, 1836, the vote was 294, yet at the Presidential election in November of the same year the vote was 531.

In January, 1844, Mr. Drown, under the authority (as I suppose) of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Peoria, took the census of said town, and reported the same at 1619.

I suspect the above is an overestimate, for he was always thought to be inclined to overestimate the population of our city, as was proved by the census he took in 1850, when Hon. H. S. Austin, employed by the General Government, took it the same year, and made it out much less. In fact, there is always so great a difference between the reports of different persons employed to take any census, that we can only approximate at the truth.

The following table shows the number of voters in the City of Peoria in the years 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, and 1850 (provided, at the adoption of the present consti-

tution, in 1848, they were actual residents, and if they have come in since, they have become naturalized), and the state or country in which they were born. Any table of votes actually given in those years will show a less number, for there are usually some who neglect to attend elections.

	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850
New York.....	111..	135..	158..	218..	222..	204
Pennsylvania....	99..	118..	141..	161..	170..	159
Ohio	46..	68..	89..	114..	123..	119
Massachusetts ...	52..	61..	66..	73..	78..	63
Virginia	31..	45..	42..	68..	57..	46
Kentucky	18..	21..	26..	38..	39..	35
Connecticut	12..	23..	26..	34..	30..	28
Maryland	18..	25..	30..	33..	34..	35
New Hampshire.	23..	18..	19..	29..	27..	25
New Jersey.....	10..	9..	11..	21..	17..	13
Vermont.....	15..	18..	11..	19..	18..	16
Tennessee.....	2..	2..	8..	17..	14..	11
Indiana.....	5..	12..	13..	15..	15..	16
Maine	3..	9..	6..	8..	8..	8
Dist. Columbia..	3..	3..	2..	8..	7..	5
Illinois.....	2..	2..	8..	7..	11..	16
Rhode Island....	2..	3..	4..	5..	4..	2
Delaware	2..	3..	1..	5..	4..	4
North Carolina..	0..	2..	5..	4..	4..	4
Georgia.....	1..	1..	1..	3..	2..	2
South Carolina...	0..	0..	2..	2..	1..	1
Louisiana	0..	0..	0..	2..	0..	0
Missouri	2..	1..	1..	1..	2..	3
Wisconsin	1..	1..	1..	1..	1..	2
Alabama.....	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	0
Germany	88..	61..	106..	163..	171..	197
Carried forw'd.	546	641	777	1050	1060	1014

	1845	1846	1847	1848	1848	1850
Bro't forw'd...	546..	641..	777..	1050..	1060..	1014
Ireland.....	41..	52..	61..	93..	125..	150
England.....	33..	43..	57..	67..	79..	87
Scotland.....	7..	8..	8..	17..	23..	27
Canada.....	1..	4..	5..	12..	8..	4
France.....	12..	10..	16..	11..	12..	14
Switzerland.....	1..	1..	5..	6..	8..	10
Wales.....	1..	2..	4..	3..	4..	5
Norway.....	0..	2..	3..	2..	2..	1
Prussia.....	0..	0..	1..	2..	2..	2
Nova Scotia.....	0..	3..	1..	0..	0..	0
Italy.....	0..	0..	0..	1..	1..	1
Total.....	642..	766..	938..	1294..	1324..	1315

In June, 1855, the County Commissioners' Court employed Mr. Drown to take the census of the county, and in November he made a report of his work; and, as he had been censured before for too inflated a report, he took the precaution to make them spread on their record a vote of approval of this report. I extract from it the following:

	CITY OF PEORIA.	COUNTY.
Males under 10 years of age.....	1776	3568
Males from 10 to 20 years of age.....	1177	3427
" 20 to 30 " "	1806	3632
" 30 to 40 " "	1030	2203
" 40 to 50 " "	416	1156
" 50 to 60 " "	172	586
" 60 to 70 " "	70	265
" 70 to 80 " "	24	77
" 80 to 90 " "	1	10
Males 90 years of age and over.....	0	0
Females under 10 years of age.....	1771	4458

Females from	10	to	20	years of age.....	1368	3343
"	20	to	30	" "	1498	2981
"	30	to	40	" "	292	1605
"	40	to	50	" "	204	888
"	50	to	60	" "	148	432
"	60	to	70	" "	79	223
"	70	to	80	" "	22	65
"	80	to	90	" "	4	13
Females over 90 years of age.....					0	1

He also reported that, exclusive of these, who were white people, there were in the city 44 colored males, and 58 colored females, and in the whole county there were 49 colored males, and 59 colored females.

An approximate opinion of the increase of population may be formed from the votes given at different times for public offices:

In 1862, the vote of Peoria Co. on Treasurer was...5821
In 1864, the vote of Peoria Co. on President was...7275
In 1866, the vote of Peoria Co. on Cong'sman was..7354
In 1868, the vote of Peoria Co. on President was...8464
In 1869, the vote of Peoria Co. on Co. Judge was..6338
At the same time the vote on Co. Clerk was.....6383

In the last above election the vote was not full. The Democrats manifestly did not all vote, or they would have defeated the two successful candidates (Judge Yates and Colonel McClure). These gentlemen are Republicans and were elected, while it is well known that the Democrats have a majority in the county. I suppose Peoria county could now give 10,000 votes.

In 1864, W. E. Robinson, in the employ of the City of

Peoria, took the census of the city, and made return as follows:

Males over 21 years of age.....4164
Females over 21 years of age.....4153
Males under 21 years of age.....4266
Females under 21 years of age.....4644

With this the Board of Aldermen were dissatisfied, believing he had missed a good many, and afterward, on that account, they declined to employ him again in that service. In 1868 they employed John C. Mulvihill in that service, and he reported the whole number at 21,829. This was thought to be worse than the other, it being the opinion of the city fathers that we had a much greater population than this.

The following table will show the population of Peoria from 1844 to 1849, inclusive:

DATE.	UNDER 20 YRS. OF AGE.	OVER 20 YRS. OF AGE.	TOTAL.
Jan'ry 1st, 1844	805	814	1619
" 1845	972	962	1934
" 1846	1136	1256	2392
" 1847	1522	1492	3014
" 1848	2327	1752	4079
March 1st, 1849	2622	2439	5061

CHAPTER XXXVII.

THE OLD SETTLERS' SOCIETY.

On the 4th of July, 1867, a preliminary meeting was had in Peoria, to organize an Old Settlers' Society. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution, etc., and finally, at a meeting held on the 27th of said month, a constitution was adopted, and officers were elected—in short, all the usual steps were taken to organize said society.

Hon. John Hamlin was elected President for one year; Col. Charles Ballance was elected Vice-Pres't; and George W. H. Gilbert was elected Secretary.

The design that none should be registered as members but those who had lived in Peoria, or its immediate vicinity, for more than thirty years, was not fully carried out; for, the thing becoming popular, many sought to join who by no means came within the spirit and meaning of the constitution; and, as a considerable degree of liberality of feeling prevailed, a number were permitted to be enrolled who had not the proper residence nor length of time. In the following list those who came into the place since 1836 are omitted, but some are retained who never lived in the city at all, and others who have long since removed away. About half of the following, however, now live within the bounds of the city:

MEMBERS.	WHEN RESIDENCE COMMENCED.
John Hamlin	Nov. 1819.
C. Ballance	Nov. 1831.
Samuel B. King	Sept. 1831.
John Waugh	June, 1836.
Jacob Hepperly	March, 1831.
Edward F. Nowland	Jan. 1835.
John C. Flanagan	May, 1834.
John T. Lindsay	July, 1836.
John Todhunter	June, 1834.
Samuel Tart	Sept. 1834.
Matthew Taggart	Nov. 18, 1835.
Thomas Mooney, jr.	Oct. 1835.
Edward D. Shutts	Oct. 4, 1836.
Peter Sweat	Dec. 24, 1833.
Jacob Tapping	Dec. 1, 1836.
Jacob Darst	June 20, 1835.
Frederick Müller	June 10, 1836.
Robert Boal	June 4, 1836.
John H. Lisk	Sept. 1835.
John Leadley	Oct. 1836.
George C. Bestor	Aug. 1835.
Rudolphus Rouse	Aug. 1832.
Isaac Underhill	Dec. 25, 1833.
John Hines	Nov. 3, 1836.
William A. Hall	Nov. 6, 1833.
Aquilla Moffatt	June 2, 1822.
John Feilkil	Aug. 1836.
Josiah Fulton	April, 1819.
William Blanchard	May, 1819.

MEMBERS.	WHEN RESIDENCE COMMENCED.
John Sharp	Oct. 1824.
John W. Caldwell	Oct. 3; 1830.
John Whitby	Oct. 1835.
Daniel Corbet	Oct. 1835.
George Greenwood	Oct. 9, 1835.
Nelson L. Woodruff	Nov. 16, 1835.
W. H. Ellis	Oct. 1836.
George Gilfillen	1836.
George W. Schnebly	Nov. 1835.
Thomas P. Smith	Nov. 1834.
William Stillwell	June, 1836.
John C. Schnebly	Nov. 1835.
Nathaniel Robinson	Oct. 19, 1835.
J. H. Schnebly	Nov. 10, 1835.
George Ford	May, 1835.
Griffith Dickinson	April, 1835.
James H. McCall	May 10, 1835.
H. W. Partridge	June, 1836.
Alexander Caldwell	Dec. 1827.
J. S. Hornbaker	Oct. 1830.
E. C. Root	Oct. 1830.
Amos Stevens	July, 1833.
Alvah Moffatt	June 10, 1822.
Lorin Wilder	Oct. 27, 1836.
Alexander M. King	Sept. 1831.
Longworth Armstrong	Oct. 1836.
Chauncey C. Wood	Sept. 1836.
Henry W. Jones	Nov. 1, 1831.
John A. McCoy	Dec. 28, 1836.

MEMBERS.	WHEN RESIDENCE COMMENCED.
John Benson	May, 1834.
Edward C. Benson	May, 1834.
Ebenezer Stowell	June, 1836.
Lewis Howell	May, 1836.
William Reynolds	Nov. 1836.
Peter W. Hawley	July, 1835.
William C. H. Barton	Dec. 23, 1325.
Perry Frazer	July, 1834.
P. C. Reding	June, 1822.
Auren Garrett	Aug. 1833,
Daniel Trail	May 4, 1834.
C. M. Frazer	July, 1834.
Elihu N. Powell	March, 1836.
Alva Dunlap	May, 1834.
Lyman J. Loomis	Aug. 1834.
George W. Fash	June, 1835.
Augustine Greenwood	Aug. 16, 1836.
William E. Mason	Aug. 19, 1834.
J. T. Stewart	Born in Ill. June 20, 1824.
John E. Bristol	Oct 19, 1830.
Moses Clifton	Oct. 1826.
L. H. Armstrong	Nov. 1836.
B. L. T. Bourland	June, 1834.
Peter Frye	Nov. 1834.
John J. Runkle	Oct. 1833.
Imri W. Case	Oct. 3, 1836.
Johnson S. Adams	March, 1831.
James F. Murden	June 15, 1835.
James Monroe	Sept. 5, 1836.

This organization has thus far contributed much to the pleasure of the society; especially on the Fourth of July, our national birth-day. On the fourth of July, 1868, we had a sumptuous feast, and a number of speeches, in the shade of Flanagan's Grove, for the members and their families, and some invited guests.

On the fourth of July, 1869, preparations were made for even a more sumptuous feast, for a larger crowd, and the kindest of feelings prevailed; but our hilarity was much checked by a rain-storm that broke into the midst of it.

The same officers were reëlected at both of said meetings, and officiate in said offices yet.

The above are nearly all old men; and yet, since this society was formed (two years and a half), only one of its members has died, to wit, Hon. Peter Sweat. He was a native of New Hampshire, but had lived the last half of his life in Peoria. The most of the time he dealt in dry goods or groceries (I believe at one time in both), but for a few years he had turned his attention to cultivating grapes and other fruit. His integrity as a business man I never heard questioned. He appeared to be a man of moderate talents; yet he must have possessed a considerable amount of shrewdness, for he was for a long time a ruling spirit in the democratic party, and was by it frequently elected to office. At one time he served a term of four years in the State Senate.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

COMMERCE OF PEORIA.

In French times there was no commerce at Peoria, except the barter of a few articles of Indian goods, such as blankets, beads, tomahawks, powder, lead, guns and butcher-knives, for peltries, such as deer, beaver, otter, mink and muskrat skins. Immediately before the War of 1812 this business was carried on mainly by a Mr. Michael Lacroix, who never returned to reside here after the war. He was born in Canada, removed to Peoria in 1800, went back to Canada at the commencement of the war, accepted a commission in the British army, after the war brought a stock of goods to St. Louis, and, in 1821, died over in Cahokia.

From 1812 to 1818 there were no white people at Peoria, not even a straggling trader. But in 1818, as is set forth in Chap. X, page 43, the American Fur Company sent goods into the place, and they continued to do so for ten or twelve years, as our neighbor Hon. John Hamlin, who was at one time in their employment, can testify. In 1831 trade was at its lowest ebb in Peoria. By the destruction of the peltries, partly by the combined efforts of white and red hunters, but mainly by the deep snow and sleet of 1830–'31, the Indians had become too poor to buy goods, and the few white people in the country

had brought no money with them, and had not had time to raise any thing to sell; and what made it worse was, the first settlers avoided the prairies, in which they might have had something to sell much sooner. John Hamlin and Henry B. Stillman had a few goods, but fewer customers. In 1832 flour was shipped from St. Louis to Peoria to be eaten, and corn to be planted.

Times were exceedingly discouraging; but it did seem to me that so much rich land would before long furnish a rich harvest for some enterprising traders. I had known, in Kentucky, Messrs. F. & A. Voris, who then had a small store in Salem, Indiana, and, knowing that Francis was a smart trader in things generally, and that Abram was a good merchant, I informed them of the advantages of the place. Mr. Francis Voris came on, and I rode around with him to show him the country. We visited Pekin, Hennepin, and Ottawa. He was pleased with the country generally, and with Peoria in particular, and they immediately removed their store to Peoria. They at once became, and for years were, the principal merchants. Not but that there were other merchants of high respectability, who soon after came in, and helped to build up the place, such as Andrew Gray, Samuel Lowry, Moses Pettengill, Amos P. Bartlett, Reynolds & Smith, etc., etc., but the Messrs. Voris adapted their business to the circumstances of the country. They bought the produce of the country, and gave our carpenters and laborers employment in building flat-boats, on our wharf, to ship the produce to market.

In 1835 Mr. Abram Voris, while on his return from the

South, with the proceeds of a cargo of pork, was cut off by the cholera. Soon after Mr. Samuel Voris came in and took the place of his brother Abram in the firm, and continued in it until the 15th of May, 1852, when Francis died. Since his death the family have turned their attention to other things than merchandise.

Mr. Pettengill was once called one of the old merchants of the place; but he withdrew from the business several years ago. There is no person who has been engaged in this business that deserves more credit for persistence than Amos P. Bartlett. He has followed the business in this city for about thirty-five years, and has generally kept a full store of good goods. He has had several partners. At one time he was in with Mr. Pettengill, but for a good while he has had for a partner his cousin, P. C. Bartlett.

In speaking of pioneer merchants, I should by no means forget to mention Mr. John G. Bryson. He was put into business by the Vorises, but has been doing business 'on his own hook' for many years. I knew him when he was as poor as 'the next man', but by close attention to business, for a quarter of a century, he has made a fortune—much more than he needs, for he has not as yet fulfilled that first great commandment, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth"; nor is it in proof that he has taken any steps in that direction, at all commensurate with its importance.

Nor must I from this list omit the names of William E. Mason, James H. Work, James Daugherty, Charles W. McClallen, Alter & Howell, John McClay Smith, and

John Reynolds, although they have all quit selling goods but Mr. Work, who is still in that business at Chenoa, and Mr. Reynolds, Mr. McClallen and Mr. Alter are dead.

In the first settling of any place, those who trade in dry goods also trade in groceries, hardware and drugs, and often in grog also; but as population increases, the business becomes divided up into different branches. At a pretty early day John B. Burlingame undertook to deal in drugs and paints, on a large enough scale for the City of Boston, and he soon broke down. Soon after, Dr. James Mossman tried it, but did not succeed, because such were his habits that he would not have succeeded at any thing: a nephew of his, however, a youth he brought to the country, took hold of the business, and made a fortune by it, and is now living at his ease, on the fruits of his labors in his younger days. That youth is William A. Herron. Among those who tried the drug and paint business in those early times were W. B. & H. G. Farrell. They succeeded well.

The following firms are carrying on the dry-goods business in Peoria now, distinct from grocery, drug or any other branch of trade:

Bartlett, A. P. & P. C.,
Day Brothers,
Nusbaum, J.,
Faxon, W. H. & Co.,
Beckman & Dreifuss,
Bryson, J. G.,
Müller & Gruse,
Kleene, F.,
Conigisky & Co.,
Netter, H.,
Clarke & Co.,
Johnston, R. & Co.,
Rohrbach, L.,
Bissell, O. P.,
Eggleston & Snelbaker,
Miller, William,
Seabury, S.,
Rattle, Henry,
Eppsteiner, D.,
Seabury, Charles & Co.

The following firms carry on the drug business:

Miller & Wheeler,
Miles, Dr. B. F.,
Simoneau & Colburn,
Farrell, H. G.,
Fisher, Charles,
Reen, Aug.,
Tompkins, J. B.,
Shelly, P. S. & Son,
Davis, W. H.,
Matthies, A. L.,
Bastow, J. D.,
Martin & Kinnear.

The grocery business has become entirely divorced from the dry-goods business; but there is so easy and regular a gradation from the greatest wholesale establishment down to the merest apple or chicken stall, that it is difficult to know who should be included and who excluded from a list of our grocers. I send the following forth as the best list I can make of the principal ones:

Thompson, S. H. & Co.,
Knowlton, Jesse L.,
Chapman & Sloan,
Green, Louis & Co.,
Gibson & Woodbury,
McCoy & Straut,
Ulrich, Valentin,
Henry, J. F. & Co.,
Lathrop, M. J.,
Burt, R. W.,
Schimpff, R. A.,
Lindsay & Dolan,
Ellis, B. F.,
Lindsay & McCoy,
Lehne, C. F.,
Benton, C. & Co.,
Hudson, J. A.,
Bohl & Pabst,
Fosket, J. T.,
Lammers, C.,
Lottmann, S. T.,
Even, Enno,
Kundinger, A. & J.,
Welte, F.,
Anderson, Augustus,
Auer & Cutter,
Müller, Jacob,
Ziegler, J.,
Burgi, P.,
Eaton, Thomas,
Lyon, Simon,
Pierce, C. S.,
Clark, G.,
Dewein, J. N.,
Ford, William,
Look, L.,
Harsch Bros.,
Reichhardt, George,
Eberle, C. F.,
Heberer, Christian,

Murphy, J. R.,	Campen & Brother,
Polster, C.,	Kreuter, J.,
Schmitt, G.,	Ohl, J.,
Schweinbold, C. S.,	Purtscher, A.
Weers, H.,	Ulrich, T.,
Folkers, J. H.,	Gorman, J. C.,
Weil, I. A.,	Winkelmeyer, F.,
Bourke, N.,	Meyer, Charles,
Roth, C.,	Hoffman, Ernst.

The first who attempted to divorce the hardware from the dry-goods business were Moses Pettengill and Jacob Gale. This was in 1834. They connected the tin-ware and stove business with it; but they had not the business long to themselves, before Walker & Lightner appeared as competitors for public patronage in that line. From that day to this Mr. Walker has sedulously pursued that business: for a long time with Hervey Lightner as a partner, and then with George H. McIlvaine; but now the name of the firm is Walker, McIlvaine & McClure. For a long time Mr. Z. N. Hotchkiss, who learned the business from Messrs. Walker & Lightner, has done a large business in this line. In addition to these, the following firms are engaged in this business: Billings & Lloyd, M. Pfeifer & Co., Proebsting & Voigt.

In olden times all grain shipped on the western waters was put into sacks, and carried on men's shoulders onto the steamboat, and again from the boat to the shore; and, if the warehouse was a little away from the water, drays were also used. This was very expensive, and the merchants of Chicago and other lake cities built large warehouses, and machinery to raise the grain to the top,

and then through spouts fill boats without the expense of sacks to contain it or men to carry it. This gave the lake cities so much the advantage in the matter of freights that much trade was turned north that naturally would have gone south. To remedy this, elevators have lately been erected at St. Louis and other places on the western waters. The first erected at Peoria was by the Messrs. Grier & Co., two or three years ago; but that not being deemed sufficient for the business of the place, Messrs. William J. Dobbins, John E. McClure and Henry McFadden are building, in plain view of my house, a much larger one, which is nearly completed. On its front, in large letters, I see the words 'Central City Elevator.' From these, and others that will be built, as soon as they are proved to be necessary, I anticipate much benefit to our place. This city should be a great central depot for all the grain raised in this region, collected in the winter, when the roads are hard, and the farmers have leisure to haul it, to be distributed east, west, north, or south, as the exigency of trade should require. The farmer should bring in his grain at his convenience, take receipts, and keep them as money, or sell them for money, according to his opinion of the market, or the necessity for money.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

THE FAUNA OF PEORIA.

INTRODUCTION.—Not being sufficiently versed in the technicality of the Fauna of Peoria and its vicinity to perform that duty properly, I procured Dr. F. Brendel, a gentleman of considerable reputation on that subject, to write the following chapter. I would just add that the bear, elk, buffalo and beaver had disappeared before I came to Peoria. A few otter and a plenty of paroquets were still here, but they soon disappeared.

There were originally three kinds of wolves here—the black, the gray and prairie wolf. I understand a few of them still remain, especially of the latter kind, but I have not seen one of either kind for years.

I have never seen a black or white squirrel in Illinois. Even the gray squirrel, that is so plenty in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, is scarce here.

I never knew any poisonous snakes in this vicinity but rattlesnakes and copperheads, and the latter were always scarce. I never saw a rattlesnake in Peoria, but they were plenty within two or three miles. As soon, however, as a place begins to be settled, hogs, dogs and men wage an unrelenting war upon them, and they soon disappear.

The following list of vertebrata represents the active fauna as observed during the last eighteen years. It is plain that the fauna and flora of a newly-colonized country can not be the same as it was in a wild state, because, as the Indian did, so many wild animals yielded to civilization, and many plants to cultivation. The black bear, the elk, the buffalo, the beaver, retired to the west and north, and the swarms of paroquets, which rambled formerly in the woods along the river, are gone for ever. Civilization replaced these with its companions, the rats and mice, and one day will, as a substitute to the paroquet, the naturalized house-sparrow arrive from the east.

The observed quadrupeds are: Two bats — the dark-brown Nycticejus noveboracensis, and the reddish Nycticejus lasiurus, and probably is there a third species, the Nycticejus pruinosus; the shrew (Blarina talpoides), the prairie mole (Scalops argentatus), the wild-cat (Lynx rufus), the gray wolf (Canis occidentalis), the gray fox (Vulpes Virginianus), the weasel (Putorius noveboracensis), the mink (Putorius vison), the otter (Lutra Canadensis), the skunk (Mephitis mephitica), the raccoon (Procyon lotor), the opossum (Didelphys Virginiana), the western fox-squirrel (Sciurus Ludovicianus), the gray squirrel (Sciurus Carolinensis), which is some times black, the flying squirrel (Pteromys volucella), the chipmunk (Tamias striatus), the gray prairie-squirrel (Spermophilus Franklini), the striped prairie-squirrel (Spermophilus tridecimlineatus), the woodchuck (Arctomys monax), some times wrongly taken for a badger, the muskrat (Fiber Zibethicus), the gopher (Geomys bursarius), the jumping mouse (Jaculus Hudsonicus), the deer-mouse (Hesperomys leucopus), the meadow mouse (Arvicola riparia), the gray rabbit (Lepus silvaticus), the deer (Cervus Virginianus).

The birds are — 1. Rapacious: the turkey-buzzard (Cathartes aura), the golden eagle (Aquila Canadensis), scarce — only one specimen seen, the bald eagle (Haliaetos leucocephalus), mostly seen in a young state with brown head and tail, the fish-hawk (Pandion Carolinensis), the pigeon-hawk (Falco columbarius),

the sparrow-hawk (Falco sparverius), Cooper's hawk (Accipiter Cooperi), the sharp-shinned hawk (Accipiter fuscus), the red-tailed hawk (Buteo borealis), the red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), the swallow-tailed hawk (Nauclerus furcatus), the marsh hawk (Circus Hudsonicus), the great-horned owl (Bubo Virginianus), the mottled owl (Scops asio), the long-eared owl (Otus Wilsonianus), the short-eared owl (Brachyotus Cassinii), the snowy owl (Nyctea nivea), only in cold winters, the barred owl (Syrnium nebulosum).

2. Scansores, comprising the cuckoos and woodpeckers: the yellow-billed and the black-billed cuckoo (Coccygus Americanus and erythrophthalmus). The woodpeckers are the pileated (Hylatomus pileatus), the hairy (Picus villosus), the downy (Picus pubescens), the yellow-bellied (Sphyrapicus varius), the red-bellied (Centurus Carolinus), the red-headed (Melanerpes erythrocephalus), the golden-winged (Colaptes auratus).

3. Insessores, comprising the humming-bird (Trochilus colubris), the chimney swallow (Chaetura pelasgia), the whippoorwill (Antrostomus vociferus), the night-hawk (Chordeiles popetue), the king-fisher (Ceryle Alcyon), the king-bird (Tyrannus Carolinensis), the crested fly-catcher (Myiarchus crinitus), the pewee (Sayornis fuscus), the wood-pewee (Cantopus virens), the wood-thrush (Turdus mustelinus), Wilson's thrush (Turdus fuscescens), the robin (Turdus migratorius), the blue-bird (Sialia sialis), the ruby-crowned and the golden-crested wren (Regulus calendula and satrapa), the Tit-lark (Anthus ludovicianus), the black-and-white creeper (Mniotilta varia), the protonotary warbler (Protonotaria citrea), the Maryland yellow-throat (Geothlypis trichas), the Kentucky warbler (Oporornis formosus), the yellow-breasted chat (Icteria viridis), the worm-eating warbler (Helmitherus vermivorus), the blue-winged yellow warbler (Helminthophaga pinus), the Tennessee warbler (Helminthophaga peregrina), the golden-crowned thrush (Seiurus aurocapillus), the water thrush (Seiurus noveboracensis), the black-throated green warbler (Dendroica virens), eight other warblers of the same genus — Dendroica coro-

nata, blackburniae, castanea, pinus, cœrulea, striata, æstiva, palmarum,—the hooded warbler (Myiodioctes mitratus), the redstart (Setophaga ruticilla), the scarlet tanager (Pyranga rubra), the summer red-bird (Pyranga æstiva), the white-bellied swallow (Hirundo bicolor), the rough-winged swallow (Cotyle serripennis), the purple martin (Progne purpurea), the wax-wing (Ampelis garrulus), the cedar bird (Ampelis cedrorum), the great northern shrike (Collyrio borealis), the white-rumped shrike (Collyrio excubitoroides), the red-eyed fly-catcher (Vireo olivaceus), the white-eyed vireo (Vireo noveboracensis), the blue-headed fly-catcher (Vireo solitarius), the yellow-throated fly-catcher (Vireo flavifrons), the cat-bird (Mimus Carolinensis), the brown thrush (Harporhynchus rufus), the house-wren (Troglodytes aëdon), the winter wren (Troglodytes hymealis), the American creeper (Certhia Americana), the white-bellied nut-hatch (Sitta Carolinensis), the blue-gray fly-catcher (Polioptila cœrulea), the tufted titmouse (Lophophanes bicolor), the black-caped titmouse (Parus atricapillus), the sky-lark (Eremophila cornuta), the evening grosbeak (Hesperiphona vespertina), which was observed only once, the purple finch (Carpodacus purpureus), the yellow-bird (Chrysomitris tristis), the lark-finch (Chondestes grammaca), the snow-bird (Junco hyemalis) the chipping sparrow (Spizella socialis), the tree-sparrow (Spizella monticola), the song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), the fox-colored sparrow (Passerella iliaca), the black-throated bunting (Euspiza Americana), the rose-breasted grosbeak (Guiraca ludoviciana), the indigo bird (Cyanospiza cyanea), the red-bird (Cardinalis Virginianus), the ground robin (Pipilo erythrophthalmus), the cow-bird (Melothrus pecoris), the swamp black-bird (Agelaius Phœniceus), the meadow-lark (Sturnella magna), which is by no means a lark, but a starling, the orchard oriole (Icterus spurius), the Baltimore oriole (Icterus Baltimore), the rusty black-bird (Scolecophagus ferrugineus), the crow black-bird (Quiscalus versicolor), the common crow (Corvus Americanus), the blue-jay (Cyanura cristata).

4. Rasores: The wild pigeon (Ectopistes migratoria), the com-

mon dove (Zenaidura Carolinensis), the prairie hen (Cupidonia cupido), the quail (Ortyx Virginianus), and the wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo).

5. Grallatores: The whooping crane (Grus Americanus), the sand-hill crane (Grus Canadensis), the white heron (Herodias egretta), the great blue heron (Ardea herodias), the least bittern (Ardetta exilis), the bittern (Botaurus lentiginosus), the green heron (Butorides virescens), the night heron (Nyctiardea gardeni), the wood ibis (Tantalus loculator), the glossy ibis (Ibis Ordii), the golden plover (Charadrius Virginicus), the kill-deer (Ægialitis vociferus), the semipalmated plover (Ægialitis semipalmatus), Wilson's phalarope (Phalaropus Wilsonii), the woodcock (Philohela minor), the red-breasted snipe (Macrorhamphus griseus), and another species, the Macr. scolopaceus, the English snipe (Gallinago Wilsonii), the jack snipe (Tringa maculata), the least sandpiper (Tringa Wilsonii), the semipalmated sandpiper (Ereunetes petrificatus), the willet (Symphemia semipalmata), the tell-tale (Gambetta melanoleuca), the yellow-legs (Gambetta flavipes), the solitary sandpiper (Rhyacophilus solitarius), the spotted sandpiper (Tringoides macularius), the field plover (Actiturus bartramius), the great marbled godwit (Fedoa limosa), the long-billed curlew (Numenius longirostris), the marsh hen (Rallus elegans), the Virginia rail (Rallus Virginianus), the common rail (Porzana Carolina), the coot or mud-hen (Fulica Americana).

6. Natatores: The trumpeter swan (Cygnus buccinator), the white-fronted goose (Anser Gambelii), the Canada goose (Bernicla Canadensis), the mallard (Anas boschas), the black duck (Anas obscura), the pintail (Dafila acuta), the green-winged teal (Nettion Carolinensis), the blue-winged teal (Querquedula discors), the shoveler (Spatula clypeata), the gadwell (Chaulelasmus streperus), the widgeon (Mareca Americana) the summer duck (Aix sponsa), the big black-head (Fulix marila), the little black-head (Fulix affinis), the ring-necked duck (Fulix collaris), the red-head (Aythya Americana), the canvas-back (Aythya vallisneria), the butter-ball (Bucephala albeola), the shell drake (Mergus Americanus),

the red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator), the hooded merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus), the pelican (Pelecanus erythrorhynchus), the double-crested cormorant (Graculus dilophus), the herring gull (Larus argentatus), the royal tern (Sterna regia), Wilson's tern (Sterna Wilsonii), the northern diver (Colymbus torquatus), the pied-bill grebe (Podylimbus podiceps).

The above one hundred and seventy-six species of birds are partly nesting here, partly as many water-birds passengers; as ornithology has never been made a special study in this place, very probably there might be noticed between fifty and one hundred more.

Reptiles of the four orders are represented here.

1. Turtles: the soft turtle (Aspidonectes spinifer), the snapping turtle (Chelydra serpentina), Ozotheca odorata, Thyrosternum Pennsilvanicum, Trachemys elegans, Graptemys geographica, Chrysemys Bellii.

2. Lizards: very scarce; Cremidophorus sexlineatus, and the 'Glass snake', which is no snake, Ophiosaurus lineatus.

3. Snakes: Crotalus durissus, the banded rattlesnake; Crotalophorus tergeminus, the prairie rattlesnake; Agkistrodon contortrix, the copperhead. These are our poisonous snakes. Harmless are Eutainia sirtalis, the gartersnake; Nerodia sipedon, the water snake; Heterodon platyrhinos, the blowing viper or hog-nose; Pituophis melanoleucus, the bull snake; Scotophis vulpinus; Ophibolus Sayi, the king snake; Ophibolus eximius, the milk snake; Bascanion constrictor, the black snake; Chlorosma vernalis, the green snake; Storeria Dekayi; and Storeria occipito-maculata.

4. Batrachia, or naked reptiles: the toad (Bufo Americana), the tree frog (Hyla versicolor), the bull frog (Rana pipiens), the common green frog (Rana halecina), the salamanders (Ambystoma lurida, Notophthalmus viridescens), the water puppy (Menopoma Alleghaniensis).

The most known fishes in Illinois river are: the yellow perch (Perca flavescens), the black bass (Centrarchus fasciatus), the sunfish (Pomotis vulgaris), the cat-fish (Pimelodus catus), the horned

dace (Leuciscus diplema), the warted sucker (Catostomus tuberculatus), the red-horse (Catostomus Duquesnii), the pike (Esox estor), the gar (Lepidosteus), the eel (Anguilla lutea), the sturgeon (Acipenser), the shovel-fish (Polyodon folium), and many others; among them perhaps many undescribed, as our river fauna is not studied at all.

Why has a city of nearly 30,000 inhabitants no public collection of the natural products of its vicinity, accessible to all, who might instruct themselves? Is the dollar so mighty to suppress all the interest in the natural history of our country?

CHAPTER XL.

THE FLORA OF PEORIA AND ITS VICINITY.

INTRODUCTION.—The following chapter was written by our townsman Dr. J. T. Stewart (on special request) for the History of Peoria.

The reader will probably be surprised when he is informed of the great amount of unappreciated beauty in the midst of which he has lived.

The Flora of Peoria is varied and rich. Within a compass of five miles from the Court-House may be found almost every species of plant that grows in middle Illinois, middle Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa. Probably no spot in the United States represents a greater number of species. The extraordinary fertility and variety of soil which surrounds us is of necessity prolific of species.

The dry and sandy plateau on which the greater part of the city stands, extending from the bluff to the river and from Kickapoo creek to the Narrows, has its peculiar flora, and was, when the city was in its infancy, one grand carpet of flowers.

The bluff, with its black prairie loam and clay sub-soil, represents, or did before it was so fully occupied with farms and gardens, the prairie flora, with all the varied forms of vegetation that cover the immense prairies of Illinois.

Beyond, and in some places almost touching the brow of the bluff, is what is characteristically termed the Barrens. This, as every western man knows, is not a poor soil, but is neither timber nor prairie, being covered with scattering trees, is a firmer soil, containing less loam and more clay, and has quite a different flora.

Beyond the lake is a great body of land which annually overflows, in which are many lakelets and marshes. Here is another flora, and one of unbounded richness. In this vicinity are some peat-bogs, containing many species peculiar to such localities: these in the fall are surpassingly beautiful.

Jutting up against this bottom, the bold bluffs rise, interspersed with deep mossy glens and covered with an immense forest. The same conformation exists on this side of the river above the Narrows, and below the city on Kickapoo Creek. In these localities the flora differs widely from any of which we have spoken. And here are found some of the rarest and finest specimens of beauty and elegance the world can produce. And allow me to remark, that we by no means appreciate the beauty which surrounds us. We send to the ends of the earth for flowers, and regard them as rare beauties, while we have growing wild, almost in sight of our doors, finer and more elegant ones, many of which have been sent abroad and are classed among the finest flowers by the most refined and cultivated men of Europe. Not a florist in Europe but cultivates some of the very flowers and shrubs that grow in this vicinity, prizes them highly, and places them among his choicest specimens.

I have only space to name a few, which I do at random, all of which and many more are worthy of a place in our gardens.

In early spring the Spring Beauty (Claytonia Caroliniana) pushes its scapes up among the dead leaves, unfolding its clusters of delicate flowers, shaded from white to rose-color and veined with purple; the Blood-root (Sanguinaria Canadensis), snow white with golden anthers; the Liverwort (Hepatica triloba), varying in its hues from whitish to blue, purple, and flesh-color, too elegant to pass by and too pure and beautiful to pluck; the Isopyrum biternatum, falsely called Anemone, rising above the rest on smooth, slender, branching stalks, with tiny white flowers; the Blue Bell (Mertensia Virginica); the Columbine (Aquilegia Canadensis); the Larkspur (Delphinium tricorne), with its raceme of azure-blue flowers; the Anemone Caroliniana and Pennsylvanica; the Violets, whitish, blue, and yellow; the Buttercups (Ranunculus fascicularis and repens); the Crane's-bill (Geranium maculatum); the Polemonium (Polemonium reptans), easy of cultivation, with its corymbs of light-blue, bell-shaped, nodding flowers; the Phlox (Phlox reptans, pilosa, glaberrima, and bifida),—the last is rare here, but is one of the finest of the phlox family; the Painted Cup or Indian Pink (Castilleia Coccinea), a unique annual and biennial, showy and pretty; the Wild Hyacinth (Scilla Fraseri); the Shooting Star (Dodecatheon Media); the Spirea aruncus and lobata,—the lobata is the Queen of the Prairie and is well named, grows from three to six feet high, bears compound clustered panicles of peach-blossom-colored flowers—very handsome; the yellow, white and purple Lady's Slippers (Cypripedium pubescens, candidum, and spectabile),—the last is a superb flower; the Five-fingered Gentian (Gentiana quinqueflora), an annual; the Lion's Heart (Physostegia Virginiana), annual; the Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis), annual; the Spiderwort (Tradescantia Virginica); the Prairie and Wood Lilies (Lilium Philadelphicum and superbum).

Our Asters are very abundant, and some of them very beautiful. There are more than twenty species, and varieties without end.

Some of our Golden-rods are worthy of cultivation. The Eupatorium ageritoides is an elegant, free-flowering, white, fall flower of the composite order, very hardy, preferring shady places.

Of the ornamental vines, we have the Virgin's Bower (Clematis Virginiana); the Moonseed (Menispermum Canadense); the Bittersweet (Celastras scandens); the Virginia Creeper (Ampleopsis quinquefolia); the Trumpet Creeper (Tecoma radicans); the Dioscorea villosa, a delicate little vine growing in thickets; the wild Balsam-apple (Echinocystis lobata); and the Star-cucumber (Sicyos angulatus).

Of ornamental shrubs there are, among others, the Wafer Ash (Ptelia trifolia); the Staff Tree (Staphillea trifolia); the Wahoo (Euonymus atrapurpureus); the Sumach (Rhus glabra and aromatica),—the former is our common sumach, and the latter is quite a pretty shrub, four to five feet high, with aromatic foliage.

Our trees are too well known to require notice here.

The Cyperaceæ and grasses are well represented. There are as many species of grasses on a mile square here as there are in the entire South, excepting Texas and Arkansas, or the whole of New England.

We are deficient in evergreens, having none but the Red Cedar, and it is rare. The great Ericacia family (of which the Cranberry is a representative), which is so abundant in the East and South, has but one little insignificant representative, the Monotropa uniflora.

The Ferns are well represented, there being about twenty species, and among them some of the most delicate and elegant of the family. Other cryptogamous plants, as the Mosses, Lichens, and Fungi, are abundant.

Unfortunately, the march of improvement, divorced as it ordinarily is in the West from fine taste and culture, is making sad havoc with our flora. It never seems to enter the minds of men owning hundreds of acres of lands to inclose a few rods for the protection of our indigenous plants. I can now call to mind but one exception, and that is worthy of honorable mention. The Su-

perintendent of Springdale Cemetery, Capt. John H. Hall, has set apart a portion of that lovely place, which associates so much sadness and beauty, for the preservation of Nature's own flora.

CHAPTER XLI.

PHYSICIANS.

The first man who attempted to live by the healing art, hereabout, was Dr. Augustus Langworthy. As late down as 1833, I believe he was the only physician between Springfield on the south and Chicago on the north, and the Wabash on the east and the Mississippi on the west. He was not popular, and the place only wanted *people* to make it a tempting place for some young physician to break into competition with him.

In 1833, Dr. Rudolphus Rouse hoisted his sign, and bid fair to stand alone in the profession; but population soon began to pour in, and doctors too. Dr. Cross, Dr. Bartlett, Dr. Livingston, Dr. Joseph C. Frye, and some others, came pouring in with the current, but none of them are remaining with us but Dr. Rouse and Dr. Frye. The former has succeeded well, and has withdrawn from the practice to enjoy a competence in his old age, which he earned in his younger days. Dr. Frye has succeeded equally well, but is still engaged in a large practice. Dr. Langworthy died in Bureau county, about two years ago.

Dr. Cross returned long ago to New England, whence he came. Dr. Bartlett died in this place many years ago. Dr. Livingston has long since been living at West Wheeling, Ohio.

At a very early date, it was found that there was a great diversity among our physicians. There were among them allopathic, botanic, eclectic and homœopathic physicians, and what more I know not. I heard a good deal about root doctors, and Thompsonian doctors, and doctors whose particular sagacity lay in their ability, from the inspection of a vial of certain fluid brought from the patient, to tell what was the matter with him, and what to prescribe as a remedy, and whose title among the country people, to distinguish what kind of doctor he was, was the name of the aforesaid fluid. However, for aught I know, all these may be included in some of the above divisions.

The laws of Illinois do not prescribe who may and who shall not practice medicine. To remedy this evil, certain physicians, on the 19th of April, 1848, formed themselves into a medical society, which has been kept up to this day. Those who went into that arrangement were Rudolphus Rouse, Joseph C. Frye, Edward Dickinson, Elwood Andrew, John Murphy, John D. Arnold, F. McNeil, William R. Hamilton, E. Cooper, J. T. Stewart, E. M. Colburn, John L. Hamilton, H. H. Waite, John N. Niglas, Willis Sperry, —— McConnell, Clark D. Rankin, A. B. Chambers, Robert Roskoten.

But there were, at that time, a number of men who relied upon the practice of medicine for a support, whose

names are not contained in the above list. That was probably because they could not produce a diploma from some medical school of their qualifications, or it may have been because they had adopted doctrines, or fallen into practices, that were deemed unprofessional.

Those belonging to that society at this time are, Rudolphus Rouse, Joseph C. Frye, Robert Boal, E. Brendel, F. Brendel, J. Cary, I. J. Guth, J. P. Johnson, J. T. Stewart, J. L. Hamilton, H. Kruse, J. Murphy, J. N. Niglas, R. Roskoten, J. T. Skinner, J. R. Snelling, J. Studer, G. L. Lucas, and Wm. R. Hamilton.

Besides these, who call themselves regular physicians, I find the following persons practicing medicine who do not belong to the medical society, to wit, E. M. Colburn, Moses Troyer, J. W. Martin, James Huggins, Harriman Couch, J. M. Evans, I. W. Johnson, and M. M. Eaton.

The reader will perceive the name of Dr. Colburn in the list of regular-bred physicians when the society was first organized, but not in the list now. I understand the explanation to be that he was a regular-bred physician, and practiced as such for many years; but a new light having broken upon him, with regard to 'infinitissimal pills', or, peradventure, becoming convinced that the world was bound to be humbugged by some one, and that it was better for it to be done by an educated man, who could tell when the patient needed medicine and when he did not, than by an ignorant man, who would administer infinitissimal doses when substantial medicine was necessary, or for some other reason, he became a homœopathist, and was dropped from the list of regular

physicians. What a capital idea is this. I claim the honor of its discovery myself. Let all men designed for the medical profession be thoroughly educated in medicine, anatomy and surgery, and then turn homœopathists, Thompsonians, clairvoyants, root-doctors, and p—s doctors, and thus steal from the humbuggers their thunder, and drive them out of the practice. When Mrs. Fidgety sends for a physician to see her daughter, the very delicate Miss Fidgety, who is dying from tight lacing and want of air and exercise, what is he to do? Should he tell them the truth, they would discharge him as family physician—a position worth a hundred dollars a year, and send for some one who, for want of knowledge, might give medicine that would ruin her, or perhaps have no effect whatever. But the greatest evil about this matter is this: women, whether right or wrong, are permitted to decide who shall be the family physician. Now when Dr. Humbuggus is inaugurated as family physician, and Mr. Fidgety gets sick, he must die for want of medicine: whereas, if the family physician had turned humbug, and 'doctored up' Miss Fidgety with 'little pills' he might have been on hand to save Mr. Fidgety's life. Half the people who call for medicine need none, and in many cases little pills would be better than big ones; but a man must have some knowledge to be able to judge which to use; also to be able to judge whether the disease is in the body or mind.

I find the name of Dr. Rouse still retained in the list, although, as stated above, he has withdrawn from the practice. It should also be stated that, although the

name of Dr. W. R. Hamilton is retained in the list, he is not now in the practice. He is President of the Peoria and Rock Island Railway Company, and that office, I presume, occupies all his time.

Dr. Andrew, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Dickinson and Dr. Rankin have died. Whether Dr. Waite, Dr. McNeil, Dr. Sperry, and Dr. McConnell are dead, or, if alive, where they are, I can not tell. I did not know any of the latter but Dr. McNeil. As for Dr. Chambers, I know him well. He now lives in Warsaw, Ky., and practices his profession at that place.

CHAPTER XLII.

LAWYERS.

Our early legislatures never thought it necessary to protect us against ignorant pretenders in the practice of medicine, but did in the practice of the legal profession; and we have always had laws that required every lawyer to undergo an examination as to his qualifications before he received a license to practice law. Not only does the law require that the student shall know the law, but he must prove that he has read at least for the space of two years in the office of some regular practitioner. This being so, it has been wondered how some have obtained

license to practice without any legal learning. The thing is simple enough when explained. The Supreme Court has always deemed it an act of courtesy to the sister states that any lawyers they had examined and admitted to practice there should be admitted here without an examination, and some of the sister states require no particular amount of reading before being admitted. At one time our Supreme Court was very exact on this subject. While that was the case, young men could go across the line and get a license, and walk into court here with triumph, without having studied the two years, or two months even. Much of the time our court here has been very indulgent on the subject, and, in stead of examining the student themselves, would appoint a committee to examine him, who, having enough to do, and expecting no pay for the service, would sign a report in the student's favor with little or no examination. I have seen poor fellows examined in open court, until they would sweat profusely; I have also known licenses granted upon examinations that amounted to nothing.

Gov. Ford and some one, I believe G. T. Metcalf, Esq., and I, were appointed a committee to examine an applicant. We met in Mr. M.'s office; Gov. Ford asked "What is law?" and the usual answer being given, he signed the recommendation. Mr. M. asked a similar question, and signed it; I asked two or three others, and signed it also. Then, all at once, he who dreaded the examination and looked upon it with awful misgivings lest he should be rejected, found himself a happy, new-fledged lawyer.

Samuel Q. Richardson, who, in his day, was well known in Kentucky (especially will his tragical death be remembered), told me (nearly forty years ago) the following story: He and two others were appointed by a court in Cincinnati to examine an applicant for the profession; they met, and a tall, rather good-looking, but at the same time a verdant, young man made his appearance before them. They examined him a little and told him they could by no means recommend him to the court as qualified to practice the legal profession. He told them that he was no lawyer; that he had been brought up a carpenter, and was plying that trade then in that city, but he had concluded he could do better. I see, said he, where the shoe pinches. You perceive I am ignorant (which fact is as well known to me as to you), and you are ashamed to have such a one side by side with you in the bar of Cincinnati. I propose nothing of the kind. If you will procure my license, I will go immediately to Indiana, and apply myself to reading, and before the people find out how ignorant I am I will cease to be so ignorant. His argument prevailed, and he obtained the license, went to Indiana, and, when the story was told to me he was governor of that state. His name was James B. Ray.

I once heard of, but was not present at, the following examination:

1st Committeeman.—What is law?

2d Committeeman.—What is meant by the common law?

3d Committeeman.—What is meant by the civil law?

1st Committeeman—What is good brandy made of?

2d Committeeman.—Are you a judge of the article?

3d Committeeman.—Do you know where the article can be got? Ans. I do.

1st Committeeman.—That will do.

And while he was getting the brandy they signed his recommendation, and the brandy ended the farce.

This sounds ridiculous enough, but really the public needs but little protection against ignorant lawyers. Let a fellow who knows nothing obtain a license to practice law, and who will employ him? He will not get business enough to keep him from starving, and will have to quit and go to some other business. This is the rule. The only exception is that a man of great persistence may endure the mortifications of defeat until he rises above them.

Not so with doctors. If a lawyer commits blunders, there is always a man on hand hired to expose them; whereas, the quack, with his dignified and mysterious airs, creeps quietly into your family (perhaps in the dead hours of night), and administers to your dearest friend a nostrum that will kill or cure, no one knows which, nor will the secret ever be known until Gabriel's last trump shall be sounded. How villainously wicked is the man who, when intrusted with the life of your wife, your husband, or child, will administer a drug that he does not know whether it will kill or cure, or do neither! Every honest, well-educated physician ought to be in favor of a law that would prohibit a man from practicing medicine or surgery who is not acquainted with the power of medicines and the anatomy of the human frame.

I would make the same remarks with regard to the necessity of having learned men in the profession of divinity (for divines, like doctors, have no one present hired to expose their errors); but, from the earliest history of man up to the present time, a large majority of men have had the organ of marvelousness so strongly developed, that they *must be* humbugged. They can not do without it; and if no one will humbug them gratis, they will readily pay some one to do it. For the present, at least, every body must be permitted to preach — saints and sinners, philosophers and fools.

To John L. Bogardus, Esq., must be awarded the credit of being the pioneer lawyer of Peoria, and next in order of time stands Hon. Lewis Bigelow.

When I came here, in November 1831, they were the only lawyers here, and the latter was only looking out for a location. He only remained a few days, and then went to St. Louis, and spent the winter there, I suppose because there was no place in Peoria where he could comfortably board. About the middle of March he returned to Peoria, and made this place his home until he died, in October 1838. He may, therefore, be called the second lawyer who settled in Peoria.

He was born in Massachusetts in 1783; was educated to the law, and practiced that profession for years there, and was a member of Congress from 1821 to 1823. He published a 'Digest of the first twelve volumes of Massachusetts Reports'.

Mr. Bigelow was a well-read lawyer, but not a successful practitioner. He was a man of strong prejudices, and

lacked complaisance of manner. He was not void of logic, and appeared to be a good grammarian, and would argue a question of law pretty well, but his speeches were destitute of ornament, and his action was ungraceful. But probably the main reason of his failing as a lawyer was his want of tact. He seemed to me to be unskillful in the selection of a jury, and when selected, in addressing them so as to take advantage of their prejudices, or to avoid running against them. He would have selected the same kind of jurymen were he defending a horse-thief, as he would had he been prosecuting him; or had he been adjusting a mercantile policy of insurance, or a controversy between farmers about the trespasses of cattle. The question with him was not whether this man, from his peculiar habits and prejudices, will likely go against him or for him, but whether, according to Mr. B.'s standard, he was a sensible and good man — that is, whether he was a man of staid New-England habits. He seemed to have a poor opinion of southern and western people and their habits.

He was not an orthodox Christian, according to New-England ideas. He was, as I understood him, a strong believer in the Christian religion, but not in the Trinity, and some other strong Calvinistic doctrines. I understood him to be a Unitarian.

He seemed to be aware of his want of adaptedness to the kind of jury practice we had here, and withdrew from the practice of the law for the offices of Justice of the Peace and Clerk of the Circuit Court, although those offices were then by no means lucrative.

The name of Mr. Bigelow is made most familiar to the present generation by his being one of the proprietors of Bigelow & Underhill's Addition to Peoria. He left, at his death, no wife nor son, but four daughters, Mrs. Frisby, afterward Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Armstrong, and Mrs. Metcalf, all of whom have raised children.

Several lawyers who have cut a considerable figure in their profession in Peoria have left this scene of action, whether for a better or worse, the writer hereof presumes not to decide, viz., William Frisby, Lincoln B. Knowlton, Onslow Peters, Norman H. Purple, Halsey O. Merriman, Julius Manning, Thomas Ford, Ezra G. Sanger and William L. May. Mr. Frisby and Mr. Sanger died young, before they had had time to establish high reputations, but their prospects of success as lawyers were bright. Mr. May was more of a politician than lawyer. He seldom attempted to argue a question of law, but on a question of fact, before a jury, or in a political speech, his ability was above mediocrity.

He was by birth a Kentuckian, and at one time a member of the Illinois Legislature, and at another register at the Springfield land-office, and from 1835 to 1839 he was a member of Congress. He, with thousands of others, rushed to California on the first report of the discovery of gold in that country, but the fatigues and exposure of that journey were too severe for his constitution. He sickened and died, leaving a wife and some children in Peoria. He had had, in his life, three wives. The one he left when he died was the daughter of the once somewhat celebrated Cæsar A. Rodney.

Mr. May was a profane man, who made no pretensions to religion of any kind; yet as such men at heart often believe the Christian religion, he may have done so. He, however, was one of those who do not 'show their faith by their works'.

The following compose the present bar of Peoria:

Elihu N. Powell,
Bryan & Cochran,
Cooper & Moss,
Wead & Jack,
Henry Grove,
Johnson & Hopkins,
Ingersoll & McCune,
Robison & Caldwell,
McCoy & Stevens,
McCulloch & Rice,
Kellogg & Son,
Thomas Cratty,
Julius S. Starr,
Ellis Powell,
L. H. Kerr,
H. W. Wells,
O'Brien & Harmon,
Lindsay & Feinse,
Chauncey Nye,
Worthington & Puterbaugh,
F. W. Voigt,
Griffiths & Lee,
M. C. Quinn,
L. A. Lapham,
W. Loucks,
A. M. Scott,
George E. Ford,
George L. Bestor.

Several of these do but little business, but as they have license and are willing to do business, I include them. There are several others who have license, but, as I suppose they obtained it not expecting to practice, but for the honor of the thing, I omit them. I also omit Hon. S. D. Puterbaugh, because he has left the bar for the bench; Hon. E. C. Ingersoll, because he has abandoned the bar for a seat in Congress; and myself, because I have not abandoned the profession *temporarily*, as I suppose they have done, but *for life*.

CHAPTER XLIII.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. JOHN L. BOGARDUS.

THE figure Mr. Bogardus cut in the settling of Peoria will, I presume, justify me in devoting a chapter to him, in addition to what has heretofore been said about him.

He was born in the City of New York, and married there, to a lady who deserved to see better times than she saw in Peoria; but in November, 1831, I found him an 'old settler' in Peoria, and I became well acquainted with him. He was a lawyer by profession, but did but little in that line after I became acquainted with him. He was not fit for that kind of business after I became acquainted with him. This may have been owing to intemperance, but I suspect his mind was never sufficiently clear and discriminating for a successful lawyer.

I found him in possession, by tenants, of the ferry which was then situated at the outlet of the lake, where the upper bridge now stands. He occupied two houses at that place, one partly of logs and partly of frame, both parts being covered alike with split boards; the other was a common hewn-log house. The first was one story high, and stood immediately on the bank of the river, a little above said bridge, and the other stood a little further from the river, and a little nearer Bridge street. At that time, however, Mr. Bogardus did not personally

occupy this property. He then had a small log-cabin on what is now called Mills's Addition, in which he lived. He had rented the premises above described, with the ferry, to Samuel Chichester, for a specific time; but Chichester had recently died, and a kinsman of his, Mr. Isaac Waters, was in possession, to carry out Chichester's contract.

Bogardus had much trouble about this property, besides the trouble he had with Eads, as set forth in Chapter XXXIV, all of which resulted in Bogardus's favor; but he had other troubles about it. Among the rest, he leased the ferry to a Mr. Leach, who, finding that Bogardus had no title to the land, repudiated his claim as landlord, and refused to pay rent or surrender. The law of Forcible Entry and Detainer was not so well understood then as now. The case of Fortier & Blumb vs. Ballance (5 Gil. Ill. Rep., 41) had not then been decided, and it was the opinion of some of our northern lawyers, who relied upon an old Massachusetts case, that title was necessary to sustain this suit, as well as an ejectment. Bogardus, I believe, was of this opinion, for he, in a disconsolate mood, came to me for advice. I told him the law was clearly in his favor; that whether he had title or not, his tenant, who went in under him, could not raise the question; that he would not be permitted to dispute his landlord's title, until he had surrendered it up to him. He employed me, but apparently with but little hope of success. I sued, got judgment, and put out Leach, and restored Bogardus to the possession.

Bogardus, however, either because of his great appre-

hension of losing the property, and being desirous of some one to aid him in protecting it, or because he was too much intoxicated to be fully aware of what he was doing, made an absolute deed of an undivided two-thirds of the ferry, and the tract of land on which it was situated, to Lewis Bigelow and Samuel C. McClure, as is hereinafter set forth.

In the various suits about said property, the consideration paid by said Bigelow and McClure to said Bogardus for said conveyance became material, and much testimony was from time to time taken on the subject, all of which I have read, and some times acted as an attorney in taking said evidence, and some times I was a witness myself. It was testified to positively, by at least one witness, that Bigelow and McClure practiced a base fraud on Bogardus, by reading to him a lease, and then, in its stead, presenting him for signature a deed for two-thirds of the property. With all the above opportunity of judging correctly, I give it as my opinion that no fraud was practiced on Bogardus, but such fraud as it is to deal with a man who is laboring under the delusions that whisky some times produces. When Bogardus signed the deed, he knew it was a *deed*, and he knew he was doing it without *receiving a cent for it;* but he labored under the delusion that they, by some sort of indescribable omnipotence, could protect him from all his enemies. After his frenzy had passed, and he was in his right mind, he repented, and attempted to repudiate what he had done; but they held him to it, and they quarreled. Bigelow began to think it time to have the deed on rec-

ord, and he got it, and told McClure to take it immediately and have it recorded.

After McClure had plenty of time to have had it recorded, Bigelow invited McClure and myself to take a walk with him, which we agreed to. We leisurely strolled back, and up a road which then wound up the hill, northerly, through Mr. Pulsifer's property. When nearly up the hill, Mr. B. asked Mr. McC. if he had the deed recorded. The latter said he had not, but would on our return. Mr. B. became excited, and expressed strong dislike at his dilatory habits. He asked him for the deed. McC. examined his hat and his pockets, and not finding it, protested he had it since we started on the walk. We all returned to seek it, but did not find it. Not far to the northeast of where we started up the bluff lived a man by the name of Trial (pronounced Triall). We went to his house to make inquiries about the deed. Mrs. Trial said one of her boys picked up a paper in the road, at the foot of the bluff, and brought it to her. She, not being able to read, could not tell what it was; but Bogardus's name being on it, she supposed it belonged to him, and sent it to him. Bogardus's signature was a peculiar one, which people who could not read could identify. The boy who took the paper to Bogardus asked him if it was his. He replied that it was, and added that he had been anxious to get hold of it for some time. How remarkable that that paper should fall into the hands of young Trial, whose father was, at that time, unfriendly to Bogardus, and yet that his mother should send him directly to Bogardus with it!

What a dilemma! Two poor men had got hold of a paper which, if held on to, was a support for life for both of them; but that paper, through their carelessness, had got into the hands of the grantor, who denied the grant. They brought an action of replevin to recover the deed, and a bill in chancery to enforce their rights under it. This was the state of affairs when Mr. Underhill made his appearance in Peoria. Bogardus was too poor to carry on a lawsuit as he wished to see it done, and he sold out the whole property, worth a much larger sum, for $1,050, with the expectation that Underhill (who was from the great city of New York) would 'law them out of house and home'. Underhill, however, made the purchase with an understanding between himself and Bigelow and McClure that he and they would be equal partners; that is, that Bigelow and McClure, in stead of owning two-thirds, according to their bargain with Bogardus, were to have one-half, and that Underhill, in stead of having all, according to his contract with Bogardus, was to have one-half.

Bigelow soon got clear of McClure, and he and Underhill laid off said ground into what is now called Bigelow and Underhill's Addition to Peoria. And thus was laid the foundation of two ample fortunes, in that which cost one of the parties precisely nothing at all, and the other $1,050.

There were an immense number of suits about that property afterward; but, as Bogardus's claim ceased with his deed to Underhill, I will drop the subject for the present.

There had been a large controversy at New York between the Trinity Church and the heirs of Anneke Jans, in which Bogardus was interested. An older brother of his, called General Bogardus, had had the management of this suit. After it had been pending a long time, it was dismissed. Whether it was dismissed because the other heirs failed to contribute their portion of the expenses, or because the general became satisfied the suit could not be sustained, or because he was paid by the church for doing so, is more than I know; but John L. appeared to be indignant at the course of his brother, and went on to New York avowedly to prosecute that claim. After being there about that business for some time, he returned here in the fall of 1838, and died from the effects of the too free use of ardent spirits.

It is difficult to judge what J. L. Bogardus had been from any thing I saw of him while I knew him, for he had been much damaged by the use of distilled liquors before I knew him, and was, as above stated, drunk the most of the time during the seven years of our acquaintance.

Bogardus had a wife, who was living with her son-in-law, Mr. Sill, in Troy, New York, in the winter of 1866–1867. He had a son, William M. C. Bogardus, who married some where near the mouth of the Ohio. It was reported he was dead; but whether he left any child was unknown here until I was informed by his mother, when I saw her in Troy, that he left one son, called John L. Bogardus, who was a lawyer in Cincinnati. William was a very common man, having neither ambition nor

talents. He (the elder J. L. B.) had another son, named Warren B. G. Bogardus, who died when sixteen or seventeen years old, apparently a sprightly lad. Also, a daughter, named Peoria Ann Bogardus, who died in childhood. After that child had died, they had another, to which they gave the same name. She is the wife of Mr. Sill, an apparently well-doing gentleman, above referred to.

When Bogardus got drunk, he not only imagined rats in his boots, etc., but he some times imagined himself very rich, and that every body wished to rob him. There came along a soldier by the name of Seeds, who had deserted from the military post at Green Bay. Bogardus took him into his employment, and constituted him a sentinel to guard his premises, and gave positive orders that if any one came along who could not give the *countersign*, to shoot him down. A drunken fellow, who had been drinking and gambling there, but who knew nothing about the soldier nor his countersign, came round the corner, and giving no satisfactory answer to a challenge from the soldier, the latter shot him down. The soldier was indicted for murder, but was never punished. There being no jail, he was after a while permitted to escape.

In olden times, fish were much more plenty than now, and Bogardus got a large seine, and caught many wagon-loads of fish, and built a large hopper with split boards, near where Judge Gale now lives, or a little nearer the city, and filled it with fish, hoping that when they should decay, the oil would run down into a pirogue placed beneath to catch it; but this was a mistake. The mass be-

came filled with maggots, and raised a stench that no one could endure. Even the wolves could neither comprehend nor endure it. They would gather in groups on the hills in that vicinity, but not too near, and make the night hideous with their howlings.

CHAPTER XLIV.

THE SUBJECT CONTINUED. GOV. FORD.

Not so much for the figure Gov. Ford cut in the settling of Peoria, as for the figure he cut in the state at large, I have concluded to devote a chapter to his biography.

Mrs. Ford, the mother of Gov. Ford, found herself, in 1802, near Brownsville, in Pennsylvania, with a large family of small children, with no husband, and nothing with which to support her children. She had had two husbands, the first one by the name of Forquer, who was killed by a coal-bank falling on him. Her second husband, Robert Ford, disappeared, and was reported to have been killed by robbers. Among her first set of children was a boy named George Forquer, who was born near Brownsville, Pa., in 1794, and afterward became somewhat conspicuous in the history of Illinois. One of the second set of children was the subject of this memoir, and was born near Uniontown, Pa., in the year 1800.

The Spanish government at this time had possession of Louisiana, which included Missouri, and, to induce emigration to that section, gave lands gratis to actual settlers. To avail herself of this boon, Mrs. Ford, in 1804, started with all her children in a keel-boat from Brownsville to St. Louis. But when she reached St. Louis, she found, too late, that the country had been ceded to the United States, and she could get no land without buying it, and the money to buy with she had not. At St. Louis her family got sick and were delayed; but before the year was out they were settled in Illinois, near where the town of Waterloo has since been built. Mrs. Ford must have been a superior woman, for, though extremely poor and in a neighborhood where schools were exceedingly scarce, she did give these boys a respectable education. About the other children I know nothing. Reynolds, in his 'Pioneer History of Illinois', tells the remarkable story that, when Forquer was nine years old and Ford five, they "*walked* upwards of three miles to school." I suppose this is a mistake as to the date. The distance was nothing unusual for those times, had the boys been a little older. But both the boys had to work out the most of the time to get bread and meat for the family. Forquer, for this purpose, was hired out at the early age of nine years, and I know a man who has seen Gov. Ford, when a lad, officiating as a hostler and servant about a small country tavern. Forquer, when old enough for that purpose, went over to St. Louis and learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, and worked at it several years after he got through with his apprenticeship. How the mother

and children were supported in the mean time, or whether the other boys ever worked any, has not been handed down to me. That they were of no great account I infer from the fact that Ford was always ready to talk about George, but none of the others.

Mr. Forquer seems to have flourished as a carpenter and joiner, for in 1818 he came over to Illinois and purchased the land on which Waterloo is located, and he and Hon. Daniel P. Cook laid out said town. This was, no doubt, a good move, but he branched out into merchandise—a thing he did not understand—and went under, and was harassed for years with debt.

At this time there was a debating club in his county, and he participated in the debates, and here discovered a fact that he had not known before, that he was by nature pretty well qualified for a public speaker. At that time, several talented men who were lawyers, orators, and politicians, ruled the destinies of Illinois. With these men he had become acquainted; a new scene burst upon his theretofore circumscribed vision; he became egregiously aspiring; he laid aside the yard-stick and jack-plane, and betook himself to law-books and political tracts. He ran for office at nearly every election, and, whether a candidate or not, he made political speeches to practice oratory. His ambition was considered audacious, yet he generally succeeded, and learned to be a pretty good public speaker.

He held the offices of attorney-general, secretary of state, register of a land-office, and member of the state Senate, after I came to the state. He labored hard to

get into Congress, but failed; soon after which his health gave way and he went the way of all the world. Such was his ambition and his determined will that, had he lived a little longer, he would undoubtedly have become governor of the state, or a member of the United States Senate.

This is the man that the poor laborer, Thomas Ford, had for a foster-father, as being an older brother and the father being dead. When Forquer became a merchant, he sent Ford to Transylvania University for a thorough education; but before the first year was out, the former broke, and the latter came home for want of funds to pay his way. Hon. Daniel P. Cook, a young man of high promise, who became son-in-law to Gov. Edwards, and a member of Congress, had become acquainted with the family while he and Forquer were figuring with their town-lots, and, sympathizing with Ford's disappointment in not being able to go through college, advised him to read law without it, and at once become a lawyer. This advice Ford took, hoping, probably, that Cook would furnish the money; but this not happening, and not liking to go to work again, he read law a while, and taught school a while, until he was able to obtain license to practice law. Which got license first, he or Forquer, I am not able to tell; but Forquer's ambition bore him ahead, leaving Ford in the back-ground. In 1823, the latter got license to practice law. Although Cook failed to furnish Ford money, he, no doubt, furnished him influence, for, in 1829, his father-in-law, Gov. Edwards, appointed him state's attorney of the judicial district in which he lived.

In 1831, Gov. Reynolds appointed him to the same office for the northern circuit, including nearly all the northern half of the state. In 1835, as before stated (Chap. XV), he was elected Circuit Judge; in 1840, a Judge of the Supreme Court; and in 1842, Governor of the State of Illinois.

Although Ford was more diffident than Forquer, and did not show his ambition so much, he was, nevertheless, ambitious,* and was successful—not as fast as his brother Forquer, but as fast as his abilities could sustain him. His clear perception, and plain, unassuming manners, enabled him to make a popular judge; but his administration as governor of the state was a perfect failure, and this he understood as well as others; and in his 'History of Illinois' (page 271), he explains why he failed, in the following words: "Mr. Snyder had been nominated because he was a leader of the party. Mr. Snyder died,

* It was the opinion of some that modesty and diffidence were inherent with Gov. Ford, and that wherever he exhibited ambition he was spurred to it by Forquer; and I have seen some evidence of his native diffidence. Although the practice of the law and the office of judge have a great tendency to wear out a man's native diffidence, I remember that when he was sworn into office as governor in the presence of the General Assembly, and undertook to read to them his inaugural address, he could not do it. He had read but a small way when his voice failed, and he sunk down on the seat or table upon which he was standing. Hon. John Calhoun (of candle-box notoriety), rose as the governor sank down, and took the paper from his hand and read it with a clear, strong voice. Ford, however, had learned usually to summon up courage enough to argue a case or give a decision.

and I was nominated, not because I was a leader, for I was not, but because I was believed to have no more than a very ordinary share of ambition; because it was doubtful whether any of the leaders could be elected, and because it was thought I would stand more in need of support from leaders than an actual leader would. To this cause, and perhaps there were others, I trace the fact, which will hereafter appear, that I was never able to command the support of the entire party which elected me." Although the above-quoted paragraph speaks the truth with regard to himself, it does not speak the whole truth. Although he had the ability to make a very respectable judge, he was not *man* enough to rule Illinois in times so turbulent, nor were there many men who could have done any better; yet, I venture the assertion that his competitor, Gen. Duncan, was the man that could have done that thing. I am very sure that Gen. Hardin, had he been in that office, would have made the Mormons and anti-Mormons of Hancock, and the vigilants and anti-vigilants and scoundrels of every grade in Massac, tremble before the majesty of the law.

The trouble was, that, although Ford had accepted the services of a dishonest clique to get into the governor's chair, he intended, when once in, to govern the state patriotically and independently, without being controlled by them. But they proved too strong for him. When he found they would not aid him in putting down the Mormon and anti-Mormon war, he employed Gen. Hardin and other Whigs to do it. This created so great an outcry throughout the democratic ranks, that he became

alarmed, and he let the people of Massac cut each other's throats, and drown each other in the Ohio, until they quit of their own accord; and when the second Mormon disturbance broke out, he was afraid to call on Whigs for aid, for fear of losing caste with his party. And when he was in a state of *quasi* siege in Nauvoo, and deemed his life in danger, he appealed to Mr. Smith Frye, a Democrat of some standing in Peoria, to come with a force to his relief. Frye at first talked of raising a party for that purpose, but finally abandoned the project, and left the governor to his fate. I know Whigs in Peoria who, if they had been appealed to by the governor, under those circumstances, would have hastened to his assistance with a sufficient force to relieve him.

But from what Ford says about how he got into the governor's chair, no correct idea can be formed. By what he says, the idea would be taken up that he had no ambition for office, but, his party having nominated him, he patriotically accepted the nomination. The facts were the following: He belonged to the democratic party; but there was much knavery practiced by that party in those days (and by all parties, I believe, now-a-days), which he heartily disapproved. He also became convinced that he had obtained as high a position as he could obtain, without throwing himself into the ring of intriguers, and getting their aid in obtaining a nomination to a higher position.

At that time there was a ring of young men, who generally ruled the destiny of the state. These young men had procured the nomination of Hon. A. W. Snyder for

the office of governor. I know not whether Ford desired that nomination, and felt chagrined because he did not get it, or whether he had been disappointed in not getting a seat in Congress; but about this time he had a long conversation with me, in which he avowed the doctrine that a man, to be able to benefit his country, must get into power, and to do this he must adopt such means as would put him into power; that the day had gone by when quiet, old-fashioned virtue would procure for a man a position in which he could display his patriotism; that to refuse to adopt the only means of getting into power was to yield all power into the hands of selfish and dissolute men; that the only means left for honest men to purge the government was to use the governing cliques to get into power, and then to purge out their corruptions, and, if need be, them with them. This conversation was not had with reference to the then pending election for governor, for that was looked upon as a fixed fact; but soon after this Snyder died. What was to be done? It was rather late to get together another convention of the party, and should it be done, perhaps the governing clique might not be able to govern the convention so as to get a man they could control; or, peradventure, they might nominate a man whom the whig candidate (a very strong man) might beat. A meeting of the clique was had, and the determination come to to run Ford without the indorsement of a convention, provided the necessary assurances could be obtained. A committee of two was sent to Ottawa, where Ford was then holding court. A long interview was had with him. What pledges were

obtained, or whether any, I never knew; but as soon as the interview was ended, it was advertised all over the state that Ford was the democratic candidate for governor. It was a wise movement, for the democratic party was not strong at that particular juncture, and the Whigs were running a very strong candidate; but Ford's character was fair, and he had not been much concerned in the questions that had operated unfavorably upon the democratic party, and success attended him.

The four years which Gov. Ford spent as governor of Illinois were the worst spent four years of his life. He left the office bankrupt, and with greatly impaired health. In pecuniary matters, he was incorruptible; but it was said that the harpies about the capital got him into habits that were injurious to him, and probably shortened his days. After his return to Peoria, I had a conversation with him, in which he appeared to be deeply impressed with the idea that his course for the last few years had been a bad one, and that he intended a thorough reformation. In this I have no doubt of his sincerity; but it was too late, and now he, who ought to be upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the state, has for several years been in Springdale Cemetery.

A short summary of Gov. Ford: He was a small man, with features indicating one from the lower, rather than the upper, walks of life. His nose was rather sharp, and bent a little to one side. He was plain and unpretending in his manners. He was no orator, in the common acceptation of the word; but what he said was to the point. He was not a great man, but a smart little man. He was

not a great gun, but a small gun that shot quick, and shot straight. He reasoned well, not so much by any show of logic, as by clear, distinct statements. Though his mind was not far-reaching, it was never in a cloud. Whatever he saw, he saw clearly. He had a tolerably clear perception of the ludicrous, and some times told anecdotes, but not original ones; and so far was he from aspiring to originality in such matters, that he would, in telling a story, quote his authority, as, Mr. Lincoln, or Col. Strode, or some one else having a reputation for telling stories, says so and so; or, I will tell you one of Mr. Lincoln's, or Strode's stories.

He was not religious, in the common acceptation of the word; yet, up to his forty-second year, he lived as pure a life as any man I knew. Like Lincoln, he belonged to no church, opposed no church, and refrained from talking on religious topics. I never did know what were his opinions on those subjects. I supposed him to be an infidel, in the common acceptation of that word; but this I do not assert to have been the case.

CHAPTER XLV.

BANKING FACILITIES.

PREVIOUS to 1851 we had no banking facilities in Peoria of any kind, and all our interests suffered much for want of them. In those days, the Democrats repudiated all kinds of banks in their public speeches, and proclaimed to the world the Jackson doctrine, that 'those who dealt in borrowed capital ought to fail'. Yet, after being elected to the legislature, they generally managed to keep the South, where Democracy was triumphant, supplied with banks, while the North was nearly or quite destitute. There was not one, in those days, in this part of the state, nor could we any more succeed in getting one than we could in getting the capital removed to Peoria. These matters of finance ought not to be mixed up with party politics; but politicians will resort to any thing to carry an election, and in such matters they exhibit much shrewdness. The Whigs were bold advocates of a national bank, but not of state or individual banks; yet these they would tolerate, or even help to establish, rather than have none. The Democrats generally managed it so that abundance of bank charters were passed, by more Whig votes than Democratic votes; that is, they would get all the Whigs to vote for the measure they could, and then spare to the measure only enough Democrats to

carry it, and let those be from counties whose interest was in favor of the bank, or whose constituents were not in the habit of scrutinizing the conduct of their representatives, or such as it was not the interest of the party leaders to have returned to the legislature. They were then ready at the next election canvass to denounce the Whigs as purse-proud aristocrats and bank-bought politicians; and many good Democrats to this day believe their party has always been opposed to all banks.

There were two principal banks in Illinois — one located at Shawneetown, and the other at Springfield; one was called The State Bank of Illinois, and the other Bank of the State of Illinois. Each was allowed by the legislature to establish sundry branches, but none in Peoria. I have no doubt that these banks did much good in their day, in the neighborhoods in which they were located, but their bad management and final downfall obscured all the good they had done.

In 1850, we were almost destitute of a circulating medium. Not only had all our Illinois banks gone down, but the western banks generally had done so. A little specie was in circulation, and some New-England and New-York bank-notes. We had not even a broker in Peoria. In Chicago there were no banks of issue, but several brokers, prominent among whom was George Smith, a Scotchman, and a smart business man, and reputed rich. He, perhaps aided by others, inundated the north half of Illinois, and parts of other adjoining states, with paper after the similitude of bank-notes, which purported to be issued by an institution at Milwaukee, called

the Marine and Fire Insurance Company. This paper was said to be illegal and without a basis, but the people were so anxious to have some kind of circulating medium that they were not inclined to scrutinize it much.

In 1851, Mr. Nathaniel B. Curtiss came from Chicago to Peoria, and opened an office, at the upper corner of Main and Water streets, which he called the Banking-House of N. B. Curtiss & Co. He dealt for some time in said Milwaukee paper, which, it was understood, he got of George Smith. Be that as it may, that which circulated to a small extent before now came into general circulation. No body supposed the money was good, or that Curtiss was responsible for it; but the people wanted a circulating medium, and they were willing to take whatever was offered.

Curtiss drove a large business, and made money; and, probably having to pay something for the Milwaukee money, he got up and circulated other kinds, particularly notes on the Cherokee Bank, which purported to have been issued in Georgia. There may have been a bank in Georgia of that name, and these notes may have been issued there, for any thing I know to the contrary; but the fact that the people believed them to be spurious, and the other bankers probably knew them to be, and still people and banks received them freely as good money, is a strong argument in favor of some body's doctrine on the subject of credit. I suppose Curtiss paid a little, but very little more than nothing at all, for this money; and yet, from what I saw of his operations, I give it as my opinion he made twenty-five per cent. on it, and yet

he broke. He became too reckless. He trusted every body; among others, he let Kellogg & Co., who were building the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad, have more than $100,000 (I have heard it said nearly three times this amount). Finally, in 1857, he got scared, and closed his doors. In this measure he was probably unwise, for the people were not inclined to inquire into his circumstances. This made a great tumult in the community, and where Christianity had not taken too deep root, some 'tall swearing' was done.

Mr. Curtiss, however, after arranging his affairs a little, and buying some of his paper at a discount, tried it again; but it 'would not work'. The charm was broken. 'He had to go under'.

Mr. Curtiss's success soon raised up competitors.

It being perceived that Curtiss was making money fast, Messrs. William R. Phelps and Benjamin L. T. Bourland, of Peoria, and Gideon H. Rupert and James Haines, of Pekin, in 1852 opened an office on the opposite corner, which they called the Central Bank. In 1853, they sold out this establishment to Governor Joel A. Matteson and his son-in-law, R. E. Goodell, who run the establishment about three years, when it failed.

Mr. Joshua P. Hotchkiss, in the fall of 1852, opened an office of the same kind, which he called the Bank of J. P. Hotchkiss & Co., and carried it on with apparent success until his death, which happened in 1856. Mr. Hotchkiss was in feeble health for some time before his death, and intrusted the business to Lewis Howell, his cashier, and was so well pleased with his management that he pro-

vided in his will that Mr. Howell should, after his death, carry on the business in the same name, at a salary, for the benefit of his heirs. This Mr. Howell did for about four years; but it becoming inconvenient, or perhaps impossible, to carry out the requirements of the will, he and others bought out the institution, and for about four years carried on the business in the name of L. Howell & Co. In 1864, it was organized into a national bank, under the law of Congress, and called The Second National Bank of Peoria. Under that law, and that name, it is operating now.

Previous to 1864, there had been a bank at the upper corner of Main and Washington streets, in the building Mr. Curtiss had built, and in which his bank was kept at the time of its failure. Marshall P. Stone, William F. Bryan, and others, had been concerned in this establishment (I do not remember them all). In 1864, that was turned into The First National Bank, and from that time to this it has been conducted as such. Mr. Washington Cockle is president, and Mr. W. E. Stone is cashier.

In 1865 was established the Mechanics' National Bank of Peoria. Mr. H. N. Wheeler is president, and J. Boyd Smith is cashier.

There are two private banking-houses here. The style of one of these is S. Pulsifer & Co. The business is mostly conducted by Mr. Erastus D. Hardin, who is understood to be a partner in the institution. The other is the Banking-House of Davis & Hogue. This firm is composed of Thomas L. Davis, an old citizen of Peoria, but now residing at Henry, and James B. Hogue, who has recently come to this city.

In addition to all these, we have a Savings Bank for those who have small sums, with which other banks wish not to be troubled, and even this is said to be doing well. Mr. Philip Zell seems pretty much to have the control of it.

All these institutions are doing well, and have a good reputation with the people, and supply the community with a reasonable amount of banking facilities, and deposits are considered safe in all of them. But let times change; let some great commercial crash come upon the country, and they would probably all or most of them 'go by the board'.

What then? Because of the apprehension that in some pecuniary panic they may break, shall we withdraw our confidence and break them now, and bring on that crisis? Or shall we not rather foster them, and avail ourselves of their benefits as long as we can, but keep as good a look-out as we can, so as to be as well guarded as possible against a panic? The latter would certainly be the wiser course.

The foundation of all prosperity is labor. Whatever will induce men to work will contribute to the wealth of a neighborhood. Should a bank be established without a dollar of gold or silver, and the people have such confidence in the directors that they would take its paper as freely as they would specie, they might use the money to build factories—in fact, to build a manufacturing city. Then, after a city had been built, and some had grown rich, and all had been supported off it for ten years, suppose it should break. What then? Would the fortunes

that had been made off it vanish? Would the city that had been built by it take wings and fly away? Would the people who had been fed by it ten years have to disgorge? Should the bank go down, all who had depended upon it for the sinews of business would be put to some inconvenience, and any who happened to have any of the money on hand would be liable to lose it; but all these losses would be nothing compared to the gain during the ten years, and even these losses would be less than at first they would seem to be. The ten years that had passed would have infused so much energy into the people that the stagnation in business would not last long; for they would soon make another bank, or resort for funds to one already in existence. As for the loss by the bank-notes on hand, there would be but little on that score, for people would generally pay their notes in the bank with its paper, and those who owed the bank, but had no paper, would buy it, perhaps at a discount, from those who had it.

Even in the case of N. B. Curtiss, notwithstanding all the curses he got for breaking, I am of the opinion that, besides making a fortune for himself, he benefited this community a good deal more than he injured it. It is very questionable whether the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad would ever have been built without Curtiss's 'wild-cat' money. It certainly would not have been built as soon as it was.

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