

LETTERS OF HENRY DODGE TO GEN. GEORGE
W. JONES.

EDITED BY DR. WILLIAM SALTER.

(Continued from page 296.)

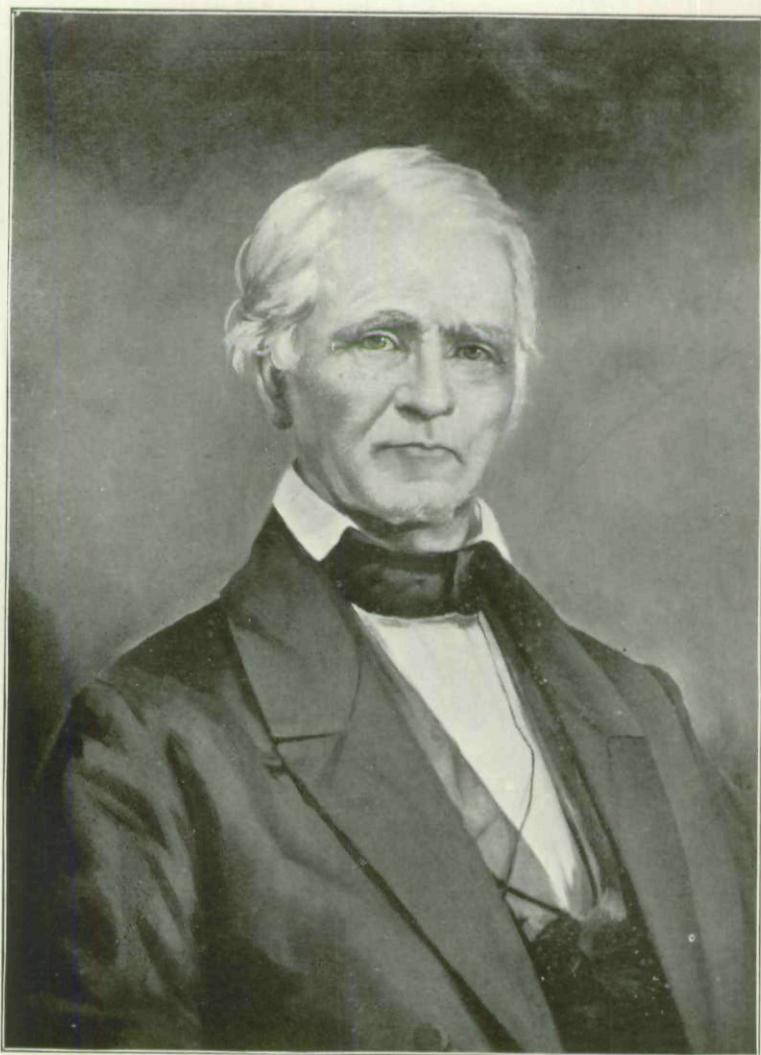
X.

Henry Dodge entered upon his office as Governor of Wisconsin Territory, July 4th, 1836. It devolved upon the Governor to take the census of the Territory and apportion the members of the Legislative Assembly to the different counties. John S. Horner was the first Secretary of the Territory, 1836; he had for a few months previous been Governor of Michigan Territory, *i. e.* of the portion west of Lake Michigan, after Michigan became a State. Wm. B. Slaughter was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, April 19, 1797, a graduate of William and Mary College, a member of the Seventh Legislative Council of Michigan Territory that met at Green Bay, January 1, 1836, wrote the memorial of that body to Congress for the establishment of Wisconsin Territory, an advocate of Cassville on the east bank of the Mississippi as the most eligible location for the capital of the new Territory, also platted the "City of the Four Lakes," a few miles from Madison, as another eligible location; he was appointed by President Van Buren the second Secretary of Wisconsin Territory; what is now Washington county, Iowa, was first named for him by the Legislature, January 18, 1838; he died at Madison, July 15, 1879.

ELK GROVE, August 16, 1836.

Col. Geo. W. Jones, Sinsinawa Mound, W. T.:

I will leave this for Green Bay on to-morrow as I have the New York Indians to treat with, and they reside in the immediate vicinity of Green Bay. I shall be able to assemble them and hold a treaty with them while the Menomonee Indians are collecting, and in the meantime runners can be collecting the Winnebagoes at Fort Winnebago. I will be on the ground to watch the course of events and the currents and counter currents that I may have to contend with. I should have holden treaties with the Sac ("Sack") and Fox Indians in the first instance but for the reasons I gave



Henry Dodge

GENERAL HENRY DODGE.

This portrait is from a photograph of an oil painting in the possession of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, for which THE ANNALS is indebted to Mr. R. G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Society. It represents the distinguished subject in his old age, after his removal to Burlington, Iowa, where he died in 1867.

you when I conversed with you on that subject. I think them the most difficult Indians to negotiate with, and favorable treaties made with the other Indians might have its influence on them.

I hope the people west of the Mississippi understand that in the relation I stand to them everything in my power will be done to promote their general prosperity. It might be well to ask the editor of the Dubuque paper (*The Dubuque Visitor*, the first newspaper published in Iowa, a copy of which is preserved in the Historical Department—*ANNALS*, Vol. I, p. 63), to inform the public that I have received instructions to hold treaties with the different nations of Indians, naming the particular Indians to be treated with. Mr. Slaughter at Green Bay enclosed me a letter to Secretary Horner proposing an exchange of offices, which I have no doubt will be accepted by this latter gentleman, as the office of Register is much the most lucrative office. I immediately mailed Mr. Horner's letter to Cassville, and hope it will suit to make the proposed change. Mr. Slaughter, I think, wants to embark in political life. He thinks he has made a fortune in land speculations.

The census returns of the inhabitants of the Mississippi counties (p. 311, supra) will be sent to Green Bay by express as soon as they reach Elk Grove. The returns of the Lake counties will be made to me at Green Bay, when the apportionment of the representation of the Territory will be made, and the elections ordered. I will enclose you a copy of the census returns from the different counties showing the number in each county, to be published in the Dubuque paper for the satisfaction of the people, and to let them see the basis upon which I have made the apportionment of their representation. My wish is to pursue an honest impartial course in all my public acts, and act as the Governor of the whole Territory, and not a part.

As it respects the seat of the Territorial Government I think I am not misunderstood. Wherever a majority of the representatives of the people agree on its location will meet my approbation.

XI.

Des Moines county was organized under an act of Michigan Territory, approved September 6, 1834, and embraced the part of the "Black Hawk Purchase" lying south of a line drawn due west from the southern extreme of Rock Island. In 1836 it had the largest population of any county in Wisconsin Territory, and consequently it had the largest number of representatives in the First Legislative Assembly of that Territory.

The Treaties referred to in this letter are in the U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. VII, 1848, pp. 506-9, 516-523. James W. Grimes, afterwards Governor of Iowa, 1854-8,

and U. S. Senator, 1859-69, was Secretary of the treaties with the Sac and Fox Indians. (Life of J. W. Grimes, p. 11.)

GREEN BAY, Sept. 4, 1836.

Col. Geo. W. Jones, Iowa Co., W. T.:

I yesterday signed the treaty with the Menomonee Indians, after a ten days' close negotiation with them backed by their traders, whose claims against the Indians amounted to near 200,000 dollars. These men have the entire control of the Indians, except the influence the missionary preachers have acquired over them; there were generally eight of these pious disposed gentlemen present during the treaty. I have purchased all the most valuable part of the country owned by the Menomonees lying on the Fox, Wolf and Menomonee Rivers, including eight townships, embracing a valuable region of pine country on the Wisconsin river lying above Whitney's Mill. The whole supposed to contain upwards of four millions of acres of land. The Indians are to receive \$470,000, payable by equal instalments in twenty years. I have agreed to pay one half of the debts due from the Indians to their traders, amounting to near \$100,000, and \$80,000 to their half-breeds. This amount, with \$3,000 payable in provisions annually for the term of twenty years, adding 2,000 pounds of tobacco, 30 barrels of salt, two sets of blacksmith's tools, and \$500 for farming utensils, will include the whole amount, making upwards of \$700,000. The Indians asked me near \$2,000,000. I had to take a decided stand or I should have been detained here, because the traders became alarmed for fear I would break up the treaty, which would have defeated their views and blasted their prospects—at least for the present. I am satisfied I shall be sustained by public opinion in the course I have pursued in making this treaty, and that it will be approved by the President and ratified by the Senate. I have steadily kept in view the spirit of my instructions, and what I deemed to be the interest of the Government, as well to promote the best interests of the people of the Territory, as to quiet the Indians and promote their welfare. The growth of our Territory is so intimately connected with our Indian relations, that I view it as a matter of the first importance to do the Indians ample justice in all our treaty stipulations. A little Indian difficulty would greatly impede the settlement of the country, and experience has given us some useful lessons on this subject as to the expense of Indian wars.

From my great desire to meet the Sac and Fox Indians I have directed Gen. Street to convene them at Rock Island by the 22nd inst., to purchase their reservation, and such part of their country as they may be disposed to sell. I know the great anxiety of the people in Des Moines County on this subject, and as Gen. Street followed me with the message of the Sac and Fox Indians, expressing their entire confidence in me and their willingness to sell me a part of their country, I determined to meet them at that time, and I shall be obliged to return to Fort Winnebago early in October, before the meeting of the legislature. My situation is one of

great responsibility. I trust, however, I will succeed in meeting the views of the Government and promoting the best interests of the people of the Territory. My course will be a steady and determined one in all my official acts. You stand well here. The people are with you, or I am deceived greatly.

XII.

Des Moines county had ten representatives in the Legislative Assembly; Iowa county (which was east of the Mississippi, and covered what was then called the "Mining Country,") had nine. For notice of Belmont and a picture of the first capitol of Wisconsin Territory, see ANNALS, VOL. II, p. 317, 3d Series.

BELMONT, Wisconsin Territory, Nov. 16, 1836.

Col. Geo. W. Jones, Delegate to Congress, Washington:

Notwithstanding I have given the Legislative Assembly the power of locating the permanent Territorial seat of the Government, and my object in doing so was to quiet as far as in my power all parties and their jarring interests, hoping all would unite in making laws for the good of the people of the Territory—in that I have been mistaken. Doty is exerting himself to get the permanent seat of the Government on his land at the Four Lakes, and the temporary seat located at Burlington for two or three years, making a bargain to unite the Des Moines and Iowa (counties) members that give nineteen votes. I never will consent to do an act of injustice to the people, should their representatives consent to do so. The opposition think that they will carry their points, or force me to veto a popular measure that will react on me. I will always be found at my post firm as a rock, and true to the interests of Wisconsin. I wish Congress had fixed the Territorial seat of Government. I fear it is to be a bone of contention for years. Speculation and a thirst for gain appear to run into everything, patriotism and duty apparently lost sight of. I am to have all the rascally speculators arrayed against me.

I feel great solicitude as to the ratification of my treaties with the Menomonees and Sacs and Foxes, and hope you will attend and keep an eye on passing events. Give my best regards to my brother, Dr. Linn, to Col. Benton, and remember me to my old friend Ashley and lady.

XIII.

BELMONT, November 27, 1836.

Col. George W. Jones, House of Representatives, Washington City:

The Council has passed the bill selecting Judge Doty's town between the third and fourth Four Lakes for the permanent seat of the Territorial Government, and to hold temporary sessions at Burlington until 1839, unless the public buildings are prepared at the Four Lakes before that time. Doty has been able to produce a complete split between the Dubuque and Iowa (county) members. . . . If Des Moines should vote for Cassville,

which I think would be a bad arrangement, I should have no objection to Mineral Point or Dubuque. . . . I am yet to act on the subject; if I veto the bill in its present shape, I am afraid the remainder of the session will be spent in unprofitable discussion, when the good of the people requires the undivided effort of the Legislative Assembly. To save time and avoid delay, under my present impressions I will sanction the bill as reported. I will have acted in accordance with my pledge to the Legislature in my Message. All agree that I have convened the Legislative Assembly in the center of population.

The extinguishment of the Indian title to the Sioux and Chippewa country east of the Mississippi is a subject of much interest to your constituents. The American Fur Company, who already exercise too much influence over the Indians, have applied for a mill privilege that, if granted, would enable them to make a complete monopoly of the pine region on the Chippewa river. In a communication I addressed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs I expressed myself as decidedly opposed to all monopolies of that kind.

The Sioux Indians have expressed a wish to sell their country east of the Mississippi. I have that information officially from their agent, Major Taliafero. The Chippewa country on the Chippewa river is valuable alone for its pine; it is barren of game. An appropriation should be made this session of Congress for the purchase of both the Sioux and Chippewa countries, and treaties should be holden with both these nations as early as the Indians with convenience could be convened in the spring. . . . Nothing will save the Winnebagoes from destruction but their removal west of the Mississippi. Some 200 of them have died this season about the Portage of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers. The country owned by the Winnebagoes west of the Mississippi is 40 miles in width, extending from the Mississippi to the eastern branch of the Red Cedar, and about 60 miles in length. If the Government will give the country which they purchased from the Sacs, Foxes, and Sioux, called the "Neutral Ground," to the Winnebagoes, it would make the country 130 miles long, extending back to the Des Moines river, and 40 in width, which would be a country sufficiently extensive for all the Winnebagoes, when concentrated, and is perhaps one of the best countries of game west of the Mississippi.

XIV.

Major Jeremiah Smith, Jr., of Burlington, had been a member of the last Legislative Council of Michigan Territory, and was now a member of the Council of Wisconsin Territory; David R. Chance was a member of the House of Representatives; both were from Des Moines county. Col. John Dement was aid to Governor Reynolds in the Black Hawk war; married Mary, daughter of Henry Dodge, at

Fort Leavenworth, 1835; his son, Henry Dodge Dement, was recently Secretary of State in Illinois.

The "Protest" referred to in this letter was signed by six members of the Council, three from the east side of the Mississippi, Henry S. Baird, of Green Bay, Gilbert Knapp, of Milwaukee, J. R. Vineyard, of Iowa county, and three from the west side, Thomas McCraney, John Foley, Thomas McKnight (p. 220, *supra*), all of Dubuque. Among other grounds of "Protest" are the following:

"2d. Because the place called 'Madison' is situated in the interior of the Territory at a distance of many miles from any settlement or inhabitants, and entirely destitute of all materials necessary and proper for erecting public buildings, and said buildings cannot be constructed at that place without a great waste of public money.

"5th. Because the Act requires the Legislative Assembly to convene at Burlington, a place situated near the extreme southern boundary of the Territory, thereby compelling the representatives and all persons wishing to attend the session of said body to travel from all other parts of the Territory to the extreme point thereof.

"9th. 'Madison' has been laid out and named since the convening of the Legislature, and has no existence *except upon paper*."

BELMONT, Dec. 18, 1836.

Col. George W. Jones, House of Representatives, Washington City, D. C.:

Enclosed you will receive recommendations for Major Smith and Mr. Chance for two of the Land Offices west of the Mississippi, should they be created. I have also signed a recommendation for our old friend McKnight for the office of Receiver; I think him a good man, and although we differ in politics, I could not refuse to do him what I conceived to be an act of justice when called on. I know the delicate relation you stand in to all these gentlemen; they are your constituents and friends.

I have no doubt there will be many applications for Land Offices west of the Mississippi, and perhaps Augustus Dodge may be one of them, and probably Col. Dement, of Vandalia. You will be governed, I know, by a high sense of duty and do what you think is right. Land Offices are now considered fortunes and are sought after with great avidity.

You will receive enclosed the protest of a minority of the members of the Council on the subject of the law fixing the seat of Government. I have nothing to say on the subject as I have officially given my assent to

the bill. Had I have placed my veto on the bill I would have acted directly in collision with a majority of the representatives of the people, and after I had agreed in my message to give my assent to the location at such point as might be agreed on by the representatives of the people, I felt bound to do so. I had publicly said, I would convene them as near the center of the population of the Territory as accommodations could be procured for them. I did so, and I have redeemed my pledges. I have acted upon that high sense of duty that I hope will always govern my official conduct. The veto of a Territorial Governor should, I think, be exercised with great caution.

XV.

BELMONT, January 2, 1837.

The Hon. George W. Jones, House of Representatives, Washington City:

I enclose a copy of a letter I have written to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in which I have fully presented my views as to the propriety of having three companies of dragoons posted above Prairie du Chien, where they could be furnished by steamboats with the necessary supplies. From the dread the Winnebagoes have of the Sac and Fox Indians it will be exceedingly difficult to induce them to sell their country east of the Mississippi and remove west, unless there are troops stationed, and mounted troops, that can protect them from the attacks of the Sacs and Foxes.

The removal of the three companies of Dragoons from the Lower Rapids to Fort Leavenworth has left this frontier entirely without mounted troops. Our frontier is the most extensive in the U. S., and the most exposed to the attacks of numerous nations of Indians, and it is necessary for the security of our inhabitants that a part of the mounted force raised for the more perfect defence of the frontiers should be posted on the Upper Mississippi. It will be several years before the completion of the Military road and the establishment of a cordon of posts, and it is well known that infantry are only serviceable in the protection of forts, that they are unable to overtake the Indians, and that the Indians have no dread of being overtaken by them. We have a right to expect that this frontier shall have a full proportion of the two regiments of dragoons in proportion to the extent of the frontier of this Territory for the protection of our people.

I hope you will be able to impress on the Secretary of War the importance of our Indian relations. The Indians are now killing each other. The difficulty our Government has had in subduing the Seminole Indians in Florida shows the necessity of making the necessary preparations to guard against contingencies. It is by vigilance alone that the Indians can be controlled on this frontier. I should not discharge my duty to the people of this country unless I presented my views fully to the constituted authorities at Washington, and as you are the official organ of the people of this Territory I think the better course will be to urge the claims of this Frontier People through you.

XVI.

BELMONT, Feb. 1, 1837.

The Hon. George W. Jones, Washington City:

When I last saw you I expected that, if everything went smoothly, I would go to Washington this winter. The uncertain state of our Indian relations has been such that I have felt unwilling to be absent, not that I apprehended danger from the Indians attacking the white settlements, but their frequent attacks on each other; and knowing the incompetency of the Secretary of the Territory in my absence to do anything in relation to Indian matters, as well as to other matters, I determined to defer my visit east.

In assenting to the law establishing the seat of Government I doubt much I would not have crippled myself in my administration during the term for which I have been appointed (three years), had I pursued any other course and enabled my political enemies to have injured not only me, but my friends also. Augustus will be able to state to you and my friends at Washington the reasons that governed my conduct.

I am extremely anxious to have the militia organized and prepared for the field. I hope you will urge upon the government the necessity of furnishing a depot of arms for this Territory. Our frontier is liable to the attacks of numerous Indians. A little reasonable precaution might prevent a state of things that would operate greatly against the settlement of our Territory, and save the lives of some of our most valuable settlers in our exposed settlements, and save the U. S. a large amount. Our recent Indian wars will surely be a lesson of admonition to the Government. From present appearances with the Winnebagoes we may anticipate trouble with them. Wisconsin has a right from the extent of her frontier that a fair proportion of the dragoons should be posted so as to range the country between the whites, and keep a vigilant eye on the movements of the Indians. In urging the necessity of ordering a mounted force for the protection of our settlements I have done what I conceive a duty I owe our people. I have the most entire confidence in the bravery of our citizens. We only want arms and a proper organization to protect ourselves, and much as I wish for peace on this frontier I know a little war with the Indians would not hurt either myself or friends in the estimation of the people of this country.

XVII.

The treaty referred to in this letter is in U. S. Statutes at Large, VII, 536-8. Verplanck Van Antwerp was Secretary. Capt. Martin Scott, 5th Infantry, and J. N. Nicollet, the eminent geological explorer, were among the witnesses. General William R. Smith did not arrive. He was the author of "History of Wisconsin," Vols. I and III, 1854. "The treaty

ground" was opposite Fort Snelling. Iowa Hist. Record, VIII, 313, 314.

ST. PETERS, July 13, 1837.

The Hon. George W. Jones, Delegate to Congress:

There have already arrived at the treaty ground about five hundred and fifty of the Chippewa Indians, and I am in great hopes I shall succeed in purchasing the Pine Region. I shall have an arduous duty to perform as General Smith, associated with me, has not arrived and I shall have to treat with the Indians alone. I am still, however, in hopes Gen. Smith will arrive in time; the traders will all be here, no doubt. Should it suit your convenience I should be pleased to see you here as you will see the Secretary of War and the President on your arrival at Washington, and can tell them the state of affairs here.

I have had some doubt as to the propriety of my acting alone as Commissioner. After notifying the Indians and making all necessary preparations to convene them I will have to act, or disappoint the expectations of the people and the Government.

XVIII.

George Davenport, born in Lincolnshire, England, came to Rock Island with U. S. troops, 1816; afterwards an Indian trader, employe and later a member of the American Fur Company; called by the Indians "Saganosh" (Englishman); a friend of Black Hawk, whom he accompanied with Keokuk and other chiefs to Washington, 1837; was robbed and murdered in his house on Rock Island, July 4, 1845. (ANNALS. First Series. I, 83-5, 99; Third Series. I, 584, II, 96, 222, 243-4). John D. Ashley was an early settler and owner of copper mines at Mineral Point.

MINERAL POINT, Sept. 25, 1837.

Hon. Geo. W. Jones, Washington:

I deem it advisable and proper to communicate to you some facts in relation to Davenport, the Indian trader, whom you will no doubt see at Washington, and if you think proper I should be pleased the President should be made acquainted with his conduct. Davenport stated to Ashley, his brother Englishman, last winter that there should be no treaty made with the Chippewa Indians, that it was treating the Indians unjustly to extinguish so fast their title to their country, that he had it in his power to prevent the treaty, and he would do so.

Last winter I addressed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on the subject of having two hundred dragoons posted on the frontiers of Wisconsin, to range the country west of the Mississippi the whole extent of our frontier, and to occasionally cross the Mississippi to the east side and range

the country bordering on the Wisconsin river to the portage of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers. This movement of troops I deemed of the utmost importance to prevent the Indians from making inroads on our white settlements, and at the same time prevent the frequent excursions of the war parties of the Sac, Fox, and Sioux Indians from killing each other. This letter was published in the *Globe*. It was written immediately after I had received official information from General Street that the Sioux had killed fifteen Fox Indians on the Red Cedar, and that the Fox Indians had retreated back on our settlements, believing that would be a favorable moment for me to impress forcibly on the Government the necessity of giving us a mounted force for the protection and security of our frontier settlements, as well to carry into effect the pacific policy of the Government in keeping peace between the different nations of Indians on our borders and to prevent the further effusion of Indian blood; and I have no hesitation in saying that the late killing between the Sioux and Fox Indians would not have happened had my advice been followed.

During the time I was at St. Peters treating with the Chippewa Indians, the battle was fought between the Sioux and Foxes, when 13 Sioux were killed, and 11 of the Foxes, and about thirty wounded.

Davenport stated on his return last spring that his advice had been taken on the subject of the mounted troops, that he had advised the President, Mr. Van Buren, to send deputations of the Sioux, Sac and Fox Indians to Washington, that a lasting peace could be better effected at that place than by any mounted force that could be sent to the frontiers; and . . . stated that he had defeated my plans. Passing events prove the correctness of my views, and should these Indians make peace in the presence of the President they will next season kill each other, unless there is a mounted force actively in motion to watch their movements.

I will urge in my message to the Legislative Assembly the propriety of memorializing Congress on the subject of a mounted force, which will strengthen you at Washington. It is with difficulty that I can now restrain the Winnebagoes from killing stock and plundering the inhabitants on our borders. There were but 11 men, regulars, reported for duty at Fort Crawford when I met the Winnebagoes there, and not more than 20 at Fort Winnebago, and not to exceed 50 at Fort Snelling when I held the treaty with the Chippewa Indians, and at least 1,000 Chippewa and Sioux Indians were present, and these Indians in a state of war with each other when out of reach of the troops of the garrison. The weak and defenceless state of this frontier was a strong inducement for me not to visit Washington with the deputation of Indians from my superintendency. Should we get into trouble with the Winnebagoes it will be from their killing stock and stealing horses. I am in no dread for this frontier. I know what I can and will do. If the Indians shed a drop of white blood I will settle the account with them in short order. I consider it a duty I owe the people of the Territory to apprise the Government through you of the present defenseless state of this frontier, a circumstance well known to the Indians themselves.

XIX.

The following letter was written during the second session, which was held at Burlington, Des Moines county, of the First Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory. Of names mentioned, John P. Arndt, of Green Bay, Ebenezer Brigham, of Mineral Point, Isaac Leffler, of Burlington, Wm. B. Sheldon of Milwaukee, and Charles Durkee, of Pike river (now Kenosha), were members of the Legislature; Isaac Leffler had been a member of Congress from the Wheeling District, Virginia, 1827-9, was member of Fourth Legislative Assembly of Iowa Territory, the first that met at Iowa City, and marshal of the Territory, 1843-5. Thomas P. Burnett, of Prairie du Chien, had claimed a seat at the first session, but was rejected; W. W. Chapman was the first delegate to Congress elected from the Territory of Iowa; Stephen Hempstead became the second Governor of the State of Iowa; Charles Durkee was one of the founders of the "Liberty Party," member of Congress ten years from Wisconsin, in the House, 1849-53, in the Senate, 1855-61, Governor of Utah Territory, 1867-9.

BURLINGTON, Dec. 3, 1837.

Hon. George W. Jones, Washington:

We are progressing slowly in legislating. In my Message I endeavored to call the attention of the members to such subjects as appeared to require their immediate action. The great rage for dividing and making new counties appears to occupy them to the exclusion of other business. I have placed the responsibility, I think, where it should be, and they will have to settle the accounts with their constituents.

Doty has been here, and it is said intends to ask for additional appropriations for the completion of the public buildings at Madison. The amount already appropriated by Congress was no doubt sufficient, if it had been properly expended, to have erected suitable buildings for the Territorial Legislature. During the time we remain a Territory the seat of Government for the State of Wisconsin will be in the center of population, and, from the great extent of country purchased recently east of the Mississippi, it will be located at least one hundred miles north of the Wisconsin river. It can never remain within thirty-six miles of the northern boundary line of the State of Illinois.

Doty having interested several of the members of the Legislative Assembly in Madison property, as well as yourself and Augustus Dodge, he thinks it is a common interest; and he believes that interest is the great

lever that governs and regulates mankind, that they have all their prices, and if they will not receive a bribe directly they can be interested in speculations which will oblige them to cooperate with him in such manner as will enable him to react on them as may suit his views. The twenty thousand dollars he received in specie is deposited by him for banking purposes, as he stated to Major Smith of this place; the workmen at Madison have been paid in Wisconsin paper of the Green Bay Bank. Our mutual friend the Judge (for it is by that name he speaks of you and myself) wants specie to base his banks on, and by the force of his paper-money-influence he thinks he can regulate the political destinies of Wisconsin, at least so far as to provide for himself a seat in the Senate of the U. S. He has Judge Arndt, of the Bay, Brigham, and James Morrison, his directors for his bank at Mineral Point—fit instruments to obey the mandate of the ex-Judge. He has a small majority in both branches of the Legislative Assembly; he has made several of them hostile to me; they would attack me politically, but they are afraid of using themselves up with the people, as Burnett, Chapman, and Hempstead have done.

The recent elections in New York give a lesson on the subject of bank influence, and prove to me that banks and paper currency are intimately connected with the politics of this country. We live in an age of speculation, extravagance and folly. I almost fear for the liberties of our country and the permanence of our institutions when banks have it in their power to bankrupt the Government, and stock-jobbers and bankers are able to control the elections in such a State as New York in opposition to the views of our able and patriotic President, as expressed in his late message to Congress. Party spirit is now to rage. Banks and bank influence under the control of ambitious politicians will aim at controlling elections by the force of a paper currency predicated upon fictitious capital. During our prosperous time all was quiet. The late administration enjoyed in a great degree the confidence and support of the people of New York. The moment the pressure in the money market commenced, the administration was charged with having caused the pressure, when it was apparent to all who would examine the subject for themselves that it was over-trading, over-banking, and extravagance of the mercantile and trading classes who made common cause against the administration, which should not be made responsible for the extravagance of merchants, traders and stock-jobbers. My hopes are based on the intelligence of the people that they will eventually go for the constitutional currency, or if we must be cursed with banks that they will be placed under such safeguards as will prevent the swindling and robbery now practiced by them.

On the subject of the boundary line between this Territory and the State of Missouri I hope you will consult Col. Benton and Doctor Linn. They are well acquainted with the subject. Commissioners should be appointed on the part of the Territory as well as one on the part of the U. S. From a letter I have recently received from a sub-Indian agent at the Council Bluffs, which I have enclosed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, it appears that the Pottawattamie Indians complain that the Com-

missioners on the part of the State of Missouri are intruding on them. That is a subject of the first importance to the U. S. They have placed these Indians in the possession of land, and any interference on the part of State authorities is calculated to produce difficulties between the frontier inhabitants and the Pottawattamie Indians. As these Indians are located within our Territorial limits I consider it my duty to advise the Government on the subject.

Horner will no doubt exert himself to change the office of Register at Green Bay for one west of the Mississippi, as those offices are considered valuable, and his office at the Bay may not be worth much. I hope you and Doctor Linn will prevent his making that exchange; he is a hard case, and deserves nothing in justice from his country. There is much speculation here on the subject of your opponent at the next election. Hamilton, I think, will be a candidate, and it was suggested by some that Lefler would also. The more the better for you. I have no doubt you can beat them either or both. Hamilton is ambitious and, I think, Burnett will have to give way to him. From some remarks made by Gen. Sheldon here the other day I was induced to believe he had been disappointed in some way. I understood he said Doty and yourself would unite your forces in the State Government for the office of senators to Congress. Your friends know you, and there is nothing that can be said that can change their opinion of you.

Mr. Durkee, the bearer of this letter, visits Washington for the purpose of procuring an appropriation to commence a harbor at Pike River. You will find him a clever man, and I would be much pleased to see him succeed. I know the difficulty of procuring appropriation for that object. He is a good Democrat, and will be grateful for any services you may be able to render him.

I would be pleased to hear from you occasionally. I know the great necessity of your writing to your numerous correspondents, and that you ought not to be taxed heavily by your friends.

XX.

Peter Hill Engle, of Dubuque, was a member of the First Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory, and Speaker of the House at the first session at Belmont. The Graves and Cilly duel, in which Geo. W. Jones was second to Cilly, occurred five days after the date of this letter. At the election for delegate to Congress from Wisconsin Territory, September 10, 1838, Geo. W. Jones was a candidate, but was defeated by James D. Doty. On the same day W. W. Chapman was elected delegate from Iowa Territory.

MINERAL POINT, Feb. 19, 1838.

Hon. Geo. W. Jones, Washington City:

Since my return from Burlington such has been the pressure of my public duties after an absence of three months from this place, accumulating in the Indian as well as the Executive department, that I have been almost constantly engaged.

Capt. Knapp and Col. Engle will explain to you the propriety and necessity of my exercising the veto on the measures of speculators and speculators. I have always thought the veto power should be only exercised in extraordinary cases where it was apparent injustice had been done the community, or from hasty unadvised legislation. From all I can learn from different parts of the Territory my course has been approved by the great mass of the people.

From the tenor of your letter on Gen. Sheldon's remarks in relation to the election of Senators when we become a State, you appear to think it hard that I had not given the lie to his statement. I was not present; had I been, I should have promptly repelled any statement of that kind as unworthy of your high character for honor and integrity. You are the last man on earth that I could believe would be associated with Doty in political views, and so stated to all with whom I conversed on that subject. Doty, it is well known, is hostile to both you and myself, and would go any length to destroy us both. I never believed you capable of practising deception of any kind on me, and indeed the election of U. S. Senators from Wisconsin is so remote that I can assure you it has given me no uneasiness whatever, and although I believe I have strong claims on the people of this country, having suffered everything but death for them, and know that many of my friends would be pleased to see me in the Senate of the U. S., I have yet to get my own consent; and it is probable I never may be a candidate for that high and responsible station. I have had offices enough to satisfy one man, and from my present feelings I think I will never be a candidate for any public office after I retire from my present station.

On the subject of the disputed territory between the State of Missouri and this Territory I hope Commissioners will be appointed to settle down on the true boundary line as early in the spring as they can meet. I trust a due regard will be paid to the rights of the people of this Territory as well as the State of Missouri.

Augustus is now in Missouri, and will return here with the opening of the navigation of the Mississippi river, and I will leave for Washington shortly after his arrival. On the subject of your deed for one-tenth part of the Helena property for which you paid Augustus one thousand dollars, it shall be attended to before I leave. I will bring the plat of Helena with me. It is certainly one of the most eligible situations for a town on the Wisconsin. The purchase recently made of the Winnebagoes will greatly enhance the value of property on that river.

Your friends here will not let you retire from public life. There is no man that can be a candidate that you cannot double distance. A large

majority of the voters in the Lake counties that are settled on the public lands are decidedly in your favor. You are no doubt the choice of a very large majority of the people of Wisconsin for the office you now fill.

XXI.

An Act of Congress constituting that part of Wisconsin Territory which was west of the Mississippi river a separate territorial government on the 4th of July by the name of Iowa was approved June 12, 1838.

BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN TERRITORY, June 13, 1838.

Hon. Geo. W. Jones, Washington City:

Your favor of the 27th ult. I received last evening. I addressed Colonel Benton a letter on the 10th inst. on the subject of your appointment as Governor of the new Territory. Knowing the harmony of feeling that has always existed between Col. Benton and Doctor Linn on political subjects I took it for granted you would have the undivided support of both the Missouri Senators. My letter to the President* was handed to you open, to be sealed by Doctor Linn who was to hand it to the President. I expected the Doctor would inform Col. Benton my views fully in relation to you.

The Legislative Assembly met here on the 11th inst., and had I not been present they would have been awkwardly situated, as the Secretary of the Territory has not yet arrived. It would be difficult for me to excuse myself for such a dereliction of duty. The Secretary has us all in waiting on him, as the census of the inhabitants of the several counties was by a law passed at the last session to be made to the Secretary of the Territory. From the returns made to this place, and the best estimate I am able to make, there will be about 42,000 souls in the Territory, 23,000 west, and about 19,000 east of the Mississippi. I have enclosed you my short mes-

*The letter was as follows:

WASHINGTON CITY, May 25th, 1838.

Sir:

In the event of the division of the Territory of Wisconsin as contemplated at the present session of Congress, I would respectfully recommend General George Wallace Jones as a suitable and proper person to receive the appointment of Governor of the new Territory. I have known Genl. Jones from his childhood; I have always considered him a high-minded, brave and honorable gentleman. He removed to the territory of Wisconsin, then Michigan, in 1828; he has filled several important Territorial offices with great credit to himself. Before his election as Delegate to Congress, and in that capacity, by his unremitting effort and industry to serve the people of the Territory he has gained their confidence in a great degree. From Genl. Jones' well known democratic principles, and his perfect knowledge of the wants and wishes of the people of the contemplated new Territory and their entire confidence in his talents, industry and energy, I have no hesitation in saying his appointment as Governor will give general satisfaction to the people, and that he will discharge the duty of that station with honor to himself and advantage to the country.

I am, Sir, with the greatest regard,
your obedient servant,

To his Excellency,
MARTIN VAN BUREN,
President of the United States.

HENRY DODGE

sage. Everything necessary has been said, I conceive, at this time as all the leading measures recommended by me at the last session are now under the action of Congress, and the result will be known before the next annual session. There is great political calculation making here among the great men who are waiting impatiently to hear the result of the division of the Territory.

In the event of the division, and your leaving us, we are at a loss to know whom to select to oppose Burnett. It will be difficult to unite on a Lake man that possesses the confidence of the people in the eastern part of the Territory. We are all waiting the result of political events at Washington, and the time is so short before the election that it will be exceedingly difficult to concentrate public opinion on any one individual. The general belief is that you will be a candidate, and in that event we expect the defeat of Burnett and Chapman by a large majority. Chapman has been making great exertions. In the event of your appointment as Governor I do not know whom the people will take as an opposition candidate west of the river. It would be a great misfortune if — Chapman should succeed in being elected to Congress from Iowa.

Your package to your wife I handed to Mr. Dixon, of Dubuque, who promised me he would see Mrs. Jones in person the day after his arrival. I have not heard from home since my arrival here. Give my kindest regards to the Doctor and his wife and my dear little niece Jane.

I am, with sincere regard,

Your friend and obt. servt,

HENRY DODGE.

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR HENRY DODGE

To the Third Session of the First Legislature of Wisconsin Territory, held at Burlington, Des Moines County, June 11th-25th, 1838.

Fellow Citizens of the Council and House of Representatives: You are convened for the purpose of making the apportionment of representation for the House of Representatives of this territory, in conformity to the organic law of Congress creating the territorial government of Wisconsin, and in accordance with a law passed at the last session of the Legislative Assembly for taking the census or enumeration of the inhabitants by the several sheriffs of the different counties in this Territory.

The elective franchise of the people is the sacred palladium of our rights, the shield and helmet of our liberties, and the foundation upon which our republican institutions must exist; all should equally participate in the advantage of representation according to numbers.

As the Legislative Assembly has been convened for a special purpose, it would not be proper for me to call your attention to any subjects not connected with the object for which you have met: except in cases where the public good might require your immediate action.

You have memorialized Congress, at your late session, on the most important subjects connected with the growth and prosperity of the Territory; for the extension of the right of pre-emption to our meritorious and enterprising citizens, occupants of the public lands; the division of the Territory; asking appropriations of Congress for the construction of harbors on our Lake coast, the removal of the obstructions in the rapids of the Upper Mississippi; the adjustment of our Southern boundary line with the State of Missouri, and other important measures which are now pending before Congress, the result of which will be known before your annual session.

As Congress will probably not adjourn before the fifteenth of next month I deem it my duty earnestly to recommend to the Legislative Assembly the justice and propriety of memorializing that body, at an early day of your session, asking the ratification, by the United States Senate, of the treaties made with the Winnebagoes, Sioux and Chippewa Indians for the extinguishment of their title to country within the limits of this Territory. Until recently, no doubts were entertained of the ratification of the treaties in question.

From the proximity of the Winnebago Indians, to our border settlements, and their frequent depredations on the stock and other property of the inhabitants of the Territory, it has been with great difficulty that the citizens, who have been injured by them, could be restrained from killing them. It is a fact well known that the country owned by the Winnebago Indians, north of the Wisconsin River, would be of great value to the United States as well as to the citizens of Wisconsin, and is not suited to the state and condition of the Indians who claim it. From the intemperate and reckless character of the Winnebago Indians, I have no hesitation in saying that unless they are removed from the country north of the Wisconsin River difficulties will ensue between them and the whites that will end in war. The Winnebago Indians own a country west of the Mississippi that affords game in abundance, and where they could remain in peace for years. A just regard for the rights of the people of Wisconsin requires that the Winnebagoes should be removed; the safety of the lives and property of our citizens demand it. Should trouble with our Indian neighbors commence, it is difficult to tell where they will stop. Our recent Indian wars have been at the price of much blood and treasure, and, have we not a right to expect that the representatives of a great and intelligent nation will prevent a state of things that would be ruinous to the growth and prosperity of this Territory?

The purchase of country from the Chippewa Indians, east of the Mississippi, was made for the advantage of its extensive pine forests, bordering on the Chippewa and St. Croix rivers, and which is considered of the first importance to the people residing on the borders of the Mississippi, by affording them cheap and abundant supplies of pine lumber. Mills have already been erected in the Chippewa country, and several hundred individuals are now employed in preparing rafts of pine lumber; and, should the treaty made with the Chippewas not be ratified, and the whites be immediately removed from the occupation of their country, we may expect that the Chippewa Indians will attack those whom they will consider as intruders on their rights.

Should the bill, now depending before the Congress of the United States, for the establishment of two land offices west of the Mississippi River, become a law, and should the public lands be offered at sale under the proclamation of the President of the United States during the present year, many of our citizens who might be entitled to purchase the public lands (should the right of pre-emption be extended to them,) would not be prepared to pay for their homes. I respectfully and earnestly recommend to the Legislative Assembly the justice and propriety of memorializing the President of the United States on this subject, asking him to defer the sale of the public lands within this Territory, for one year. The present state of the currency and the difficulty of procuring land-office money would justify the indulgence proposed for the benefit of this meritorious class of our citizens, who have a right to expect that justice and the patronage of the Government will be extended to them.

I recommend to you, gentlemen, despatch in the discharge of your Legislative duties; and you may expect my co-operation in all measures which have for their object the public good.

Burlington, W. T., June 11th, 1838.

HENRY DODGE.

DEATH OF JOHN B. NEWHALL.—From *The Saint Louis Union* of the 12th instant, we learn that John B. Newhall, a much esteemed citizen of our State, died of cholera a few days since at or near Independence, Mo. Mr. Newhall was widely known as the author of several maps of Iowa—of "Sketches of Iowa," "Notes on Iowa," etc. He was an enthusiastic admirer of nature and has given many graphic descriptions of the scenery of different portions of the State. He was the writer, we are informed of all the letters which have, at various times appeared in *The Burlington Hawkeye* bearing the signature of "Chemokomon." Mr. Newhall has done as much if not more than any other person to bring our young State into notice.—*The Muscatine Journal*, May 19, 1849.

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