

FIRST MINISTER HERE.

(Continued from first page.)

wind taken account of. The Indian trails were of great utility as they gave direction and led to various parts of the country. They were what strangers call foot-paths made by the Indian ponies which they always rode, summer and winter, in single file, even if there were several hundreds of them and the party stretched out for a mile or more—one Indian followed another in a distinct line. Their trails conducted the "Chemoke-man" (white man) to the safest crossings of the sloughs and fords of the rivers, and they protected the early pioneers from many perils which would fall upon an un-informed explorer. But even with the advantages of the Indian trail and the exercise of a fair degree of caution, the traveler would often mire down in the black soil of Illinois. As emigration increased a few families settled in isolated situations, there would be a family or two within a distance of several miles and here and there they would "squat" not knowing where the survey lines would place them or in what township they would show up after the government had fixed their position and given their locality a name. A large per centage of these settlers were unmarried and in many instances their stay was short. The method of the early pioneer after a wearisome journey of hundreds of miles was to halt his tired team and with his family live around the wagon, meanwhile collecting small logs and poles, sometimes from a distance. They would then construct a small one-room cabin and pack hay on top instead of boards and shingles, hoping at no distant time to improve their humble dwelling planted under such circumstances—often not knowing their whereabouts, with the wolves barking around them during the night—they would be fully aware that their home was on a distant prairie and in a new country. Dr. C. G. Wheeler and family were the first to locate in McHenry, and one cold morning in the winter of '36-7, his log shanty took fire and while he was on the roof endeavoring to extinguish the flames, to his delight he heard a musket discharged at some distance east of the Fox river. With other settlers he explored the region and found two families—the Goodro's and Rice's—near what is now called Volo. These families had made a trail from Chicago which the little band of explorers from McHenry extended to the Fox river, making the distance to Chicago by private trail, forty-three miles. This was the first thoroughfare from Chicago to the Fox river at this point and for all territory west of it in the range of this

crossing, and it remains a thoroughfare at this time. A work of marvel to the early settlers at this point on the river, was that the Indians at some period of their existence had improved the ford at McHenry. "Here is the mystery lodged." They had procured and laid in order a hearth in the bottom of and across the river, for the accommodation of their small ponies as they forded. Where these stones could have come from and how they were brought to the place and arranged was truly remarkable, as no quarry to the knowledge of any citizen in the whole country around has been found from whence these stones could have been taken. After the settlement of McHenry, these stones were taken out of the river at low water and converted into walls, etc. An Indian burial place occupied the town of McHenry prior to its ownership and survey. The poor savages here had their repose. At the time of the first occupancy of the pioneers, a chief was resting in his simple sepulchre susceptible of being seen and securing homage by the tribe. They in passing reposed with him some article of value—among which plugs of tobacco, seemed to be the most important. His resting place was a well-constructed log cabin, long enough and tall enough for him to sit upright on a stool. After some time the white settlers divided up his bones, distributing them far and wide. An infant was also protected, being rolled up in bark and suspended from a tree. Of the remains of the chief Mr. Wheeler availed himself of the pony whip, consisting of a strap of leather one foot in length, split from near the end in three parts and braided together, also of his necklace, consisting of common vest buttons—several dozens of them strung on a kind of braid. Mr. Wheeler had no desire for the bones. From 1837 to 1841 there was not a religious organization except the Baptist in the wide distance between Chicago and Milwaukee. They held sacred service from a settlement twenty-four miles north of Milwaukee to the city of Joliet, and throughout this distance, Elder Wheeler, as he was called, traveled and preached the gospel. All his travel was by private conveyance—either horse-back or wagon as the case might be. His vehicle was called a Dearborn, consisting of a box suspended by "thorough braces" resembling strong leather tugs. He was obliged to cross all sloughs, creeks, ravines, rivers and long marshy tracts with which the country abounded and in a wet season the exposures and dangers of traveling were great. Elder Wheeler in his many journeys to preach the gospel in the scattered settlements, encountered many dangers and twice came near drowning while crossing streams and twice was

reported dead. His labors were very great and when we take into account the wildness of the country, the extensive territory he traversed and his many privations his endurance is astonishing. Feb. 28, 1838, while worshipping the Lord's day in the large room of a double log house, the overcoats, wraps, etc., being deposited for the occasion in the small room, it took fire and burned down consuming the wardrobe of the family who were living in the house, and burning all of Elder Wheeler's extra clothing that he had with him. The good Elder in his MSS. states that he lost in this fire a good twill broad-cloth overcoat with capes, a camel cloth with large cape and seal skin cap (\$5), overshoes faced with seal (\$5), two pairs of mittens—one buck, one yarn. In consideration of his loss, Elder Brook, of Wauconda, then in Chicago—sent him a pair of sheepskin mittens, and as Elder Wheeler says "the Lord provided." The Rev. Isaac Hinton, pastor at Chicago, addressed the Home Mission Society and secured in his favor an appropriation of \$100 per year, which continued six years. Up to the winter of 1840-'41, no other officiating clergyman of any other denomination made his appearance upon this field, vast as it was. This winter the first and only M.E. class was formed at Crystal Lake. When he arrived at McHenry, August, 1837, he immediately began the erection of a dwelling which he completed the next year. It was the first frame building in what is now McHenry village. He reserved the main room for church and school purposes. In 1838 he opened what he called a boarding school which he conducted with the aid of his wife, during his stay in the place. This was the first boarding school ever opened in McHenry Co. At times it was comparatively small as to numbers, but its patronage was very extensive, comprising Wisconsin and various portions of Illinois. He moved to Warrensville, DuPage County, in 1841. People then possessed no church edifice and there was no schools for instruction in the higher branches, taught west of the lakes. Chicago had entered upon no such enterprise. Elder Wheeler established the Warrensville Institute and by his effort a church and school building was erected. For many years this Institute was kept in successful operation. It was the only school in the entire northwest where the classics were taught. He had many students fitting for the ministry, and some of the early physicians in Illinois received their classical training in this institution. In his MSS. we find the following list marked "My Churches," of which, without doubt, he was the founder: Wauconda, Nov., 1837; Kenosha, Wis., Mar., 1838; McHenry, Jan. 1, 1838; Salem, Wis., Mar.

1838; Crystal Lake, 1839; Upper Tiplain(?) 1839; Union Bridge, 1841; Bloomingsdale, 1841; Benton, 1841; Richland, 1842; Oregon, 1845; Waukegan, 1846; Silver Lake, 1849; Woodstock, 1850. The first marriage in McHenry County was that of Jonathan Imerson and Miss Mary Wray, solemnized by Rev. Joel Wheeler, November, 30, 1837. Elder Wheeler also solemnized the first marriage in the town of McHenry, which was that of Luther Brennan to Charlotte Joslyn Jan. 26, 1839.

McVicker's Theatre
Much to the regret of Chicago play goers the long run of "Way Down East" is drawing to a close at McVicker's Theatre. Manager Wm. A. Brady is compelled to take his play to other cities for which he has contracted and the run must stop. This seems unfortunate as the theatre is packed to the doors at every performance and every night people are turned away unable to get even standing room. "Way Down East" is the most successful pastoral play that has ever been seen in Chicago since the World's Fair year when one of the rural dramas had a prolonged and very successful run at McVicker's. The reasons for the great popular favor which is shown to Mr. Brady's play, and company are manifold. The play itself tells a beautiful and human story—full of the intensest pathos and yet brimming over with fun and frolic; the company which is acting the piece is one of the best that has ever been brought together and the scenery, properties, accessories and lighting are well nigh perfection. The scenery copies nature so closely it is difficult to distinguish where one begins and the other ends. For these reasons the theatre-going people have crowded McVicker's ever since the run began August 18. On Monday August 24 the play celebrates its fiftieth performance at McVicker's and its one hundredth time in Chicago. Very few plays have ever achieved such a large number of performances in Chicago and Manager Brady is congratulating himself on this fact. Every effort was made by both Mr. Litt and Mr. Brady to arrange for a long run of the play but the contracts which both men signed are so iron clad it is impossible to get free from them. The play will be at McVicker's until some time in October. Excursion parties from outside towns are of nightly occurrence, and the management does everything in its power to facilitate the pleasure of these excursionists.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.
Take LAXATIVE Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 35c.

STOVES! STOVES!

I have a larger stock and a better assortment than has ever before been shown in McHenry, consisting of Coal and Wood Heaters, Cast and Steel Ranges, for any kind of fuel. Wood and Coal Cook Stoves, Oil Heaters, Etc.
We sold more Stoves in 1899 than was ever sold by any one firm in our village. We are ahead of last year's sales at this time and with prospects for increased sales from now on.
Now why are we selling these Stoves? See our Line, get our Prices and you have the Secret.

HARDWARE!

We are also selling some Hardware, House Furnishing Goods, Cutlery, Plated Ware, Chryselite Ware, Wooden Ware, Tinware, Copper Goods, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Brushes and Glass for the same reason that we are selling so many stoves.

We are in shape to clean, repair, and set up your Heaters this Fall on short Notice.

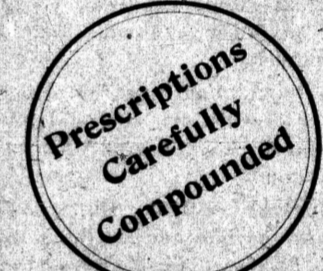
Your Trade Respectfully Solicited,

F. L. McOMBER

West Side Hardware

Pure Drugs and Medicines

- Paints
- Oils
- Colors
- Brushes
- Toilet articles
- Notions, Etc.



JULIA A. STORY.

McHenry, Illinois.

GROCERY BARGAINS FOR ONE WEEK.

We continue for 1 week more to sell the below list of goods at \$2.50.

21 pounds best Granulated Sugar at 6½c	\$1.37
12 bars good laundry Soap at 3c	36c
7 bars (Old Black Joe) Soap at 5c each bar is a cartoon	35c
4 cans Merry War Lye at 10c, guarantee this to be equal of any on the market	35c
1 parlor Broom, a good one	35c
2 pounds McLaughlins XXXX or Blanke's Special Coffee at 15c	\$3.00
6 pounds fine Laundry Starch at 5c	30c
1 pound package Butterfly Baking Soda	7c
	\$3.50
Price for entire lot	\$2.50
Your saving	\$1.00

AGENTS...
FOR.....



GILBERT BROTHERS McHENRY

FANCY GROCERS.

GILBERT BROS.

McHenry, Ill.