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From the diary of Philip Hone of New York  
Year 1847

May 26. - I received yesterday a circular letter from Hon. William A. Mosely, chairman of the corresponding committee of Buffalo, an estimable Whig member of Congress, inviting me to attend a great convention to be held at Chicago, Illinois, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. The object of this convention is to put forward the claims upon the government of the enterprising citizens of the great western lake country, and consequently to rebuke the contumelious treatment they have received from the person who has, accidentally, obtained the power to defeat the wise and constitutional measures adopted by the people's representatives. I have replied to Mr Mosely's letter, accepting the invitation of the committee, and promising to be at Chicago on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, my health permitting. This fits in well. I have been making arrangements to go early next month to Lake Michigan, Green Bay, and Chicago; and here is an additional inducement.

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Then comes enters describing trip to Chicago. -- NYC to Philadelphia & Harrisburg Pa. by rail - Harrisburg to Pittsburg by canal boat - Pittsburg to Cincinnati by boat - visit with Henry Clay - by boat to St. Louis. - St. Louis to Chicago mostly by boat.

Thursday July 8 - We arrived soon after daylight at Milwaukee, where we remained until ten o'clock. Here is another wonder of the western world, - an Aladdin's palace on a large scale, raised in a night, but likely to be of longer duration. The town is well situated, in the state of Wisconsin, 95 miles below Chicago, with a fine harbor; streets of business filled with wagons, some conveying the merchandise of New York into the interior of the state, and others bringing in new country produce, and taking out old country immigrants; churches, printing-offices, markets and milliners - and all these in a place where 12 years ago there were just three log shanties. Carriages were provided by the Milwaukeeans to take the company to see the town for which no compensation would be received and we left Milwaukee under a salute of cannon.

At four P.M. we parted on board the St Louis and landed at Sheboygan, 50 miles from Milwaukee. They went on to enjoy the excursion laid out to Mackinaw and Sault Ste Marie and I came here to view my lands at this place and Fond du Lac and to transact business with my agents at these places, Messrs Howard and Bannister.

Sheboygan Friday July 9 - We are at the Sheboygan House, kept rather so-so-ishly by Mr Camp.

I spent the day in driving with Mr Whitney and walking with Mr Howard

to see my lots with which I am so well satisfied that I have forbidden the sale of any more at present. The site of the town is better than that of Milwaukee and the river requires only the removal of obstructions from its mouth to make it an excellent harbor. Everything is new, houses and stores are going up in every direction but all seems to be in embryo. Lots are now worth double the money at which I sold them a year ago. Emigrants are coming in shoals and taking their line of march to the interior of the territory.

Saturday July 10 - My business at Sheboygan being accomplished Margaret and I started this morning at seven o'clock in an open wagon with a pair of horses and a handy boy to drive, on this journey of 44 miles (to Fond du Lac). But such a journey I never suffered; the road until the last seven or eight miles lies through a dense forest, generally beech and maple, with now and then a clearance, with trees still burning; a log cabin, with swarms of children; pigs; a cow, perhaps; and a pot boiling upon the cross sticks. Every mile we met a family of German emigrants, with their goods and chattels stowed away in a huge ox-wagon, with legs of all sizes projecting, from those of the mother of the family and size of a horse back to the pipe stems of the latest pledge of continental industry. The road, with the exception of the first six miles to the new and thriving

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settlement at the falls of the beautiful  
Sheboygan river, and the last six on the  
prairies of Fond du Lac, is almost im-possible. stumps  
and roots alternate with stones so thickly  
sown that there is no room for the wheels  
to pass between them; and occasionally,  
that art should come in to dispute with  
nature the credit of the construction of this  
via infernal, a bridge formed of rough  
logs, of all sizes and forms, is thrown  
over a deep swamp of black mud. Thus  
we came plunging into holes, and  
brought up by stumps, at the rate of two  
miles an hour, in the hottest day there  
has been this summer. Besides all this  
we have the prospect of returning by  
this road on Monday. Governor Talmadge,  
who, with his daughter, who has been a  
fellow sufferer in another wagon, kindly  
insisted upon our becoming his guests  
at his log cabin three miles from  
Fond du Lac, and here we hope (if  
the mosquitoes will let us) to slup away  
the fatigue and sorrows of our hard days  
journey.

Sunday

Fond du Lac, ~~Saturday~~ July 10. This  
day has been passed in an un-sabbath-like  
manner (which I am sorry to say is not  
an unusual circumstance) Gov'r Talmadge  
took us in his wagon to the village, where  
I saw and conferred with my agent, Mr  
Bannister with whom I am much pleased.  
If he is not an honest man I am no  
physiognomist. I saw also Mr McWilliam,  
an intelligent correct man who has  
something to do with my concerns. Mr  
Bannister accompanied us in a drive

over my lands. I am a pretty considerable proprietor and have no disposition to divest myself of my interests, it may and probably will come to good for my children. Never was seen finer lands, dry prairies equally valuable for pasture or cultivation. I have seen some valuable (?) in the present village but none so handsome to look at.

Gov. Tallmadge has a splendid farm but his house is a rough concern and he has neglected many things to make his family comfortable. They are numerous, mostly girls, but I should think more used to making temporary shifts than linen ones.

After dinner I was jolted over the farm, albeit sore with yesterday's exercise of that nature, and had to listen to plans of improvement which I did not understand and assent (?) to capabilities which I was not capable to appreciate.

Sheboygan Monday July 12. - We left Gov. Tallmadge before six o'clock this morning and returned to this place, making another long drive over the detestable road, hotter even and more dusty than Saturday - but whether we had gotten used to it and were prepared for the worst I know not but our sufferings seemed to be more tolerable. The water on the route is excellent, every settler has a well or spring on his 'clearance', in the refreshment of which we participated largely with the Hones.

The steamboat Niagara did not appear - All at Sheboygan - Left tonight on the A D Patetris (?) deck length 230 ft - Capt Whittaker - Etc

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