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shining gravel, and is deep enough (average 60 feet) for navigation by steamboats. The second in size, Lake Monona, is somewhat smaller, and has not so great a depth, but is still able to support a small steamer which makes pleasant excursions.

Among the prominent features of the town is the state capitol, a fine stone structure built upon a commanding eminence some seventy feet above the level of the lake, and surrounded by a handsome public park of fourteen acres. College hill, and the University of Wisconsin upon its brow, are also noticeable, looming up above their surroundings, about a mile west of the capitol, and 125 feet above Lake Mendota. Delightful drives abound, and everything may be found at hand to tempt the visitor to linger on and on until snowfall. Facilities for procuring board are adequate, excellent boarding houses abound, and there are in addition several passable hotels. A majority of visitors prefer the quiet and privacy of semi-private families, hence the hotels have not had sufficient encouragement, perhaps, to compete with those of other and even less favored summer resorts.

MIDDLETON TO PRAIRIE DU CHIEN.

Situated in the same county with the state capital, and distant from it but a few miles, the little village of Middleton has claims upon the attention of the traveler, which are recognised by all who visit Madison, as well as by many who even prefer its simplicity and economy to the more aristocratic life of the city. With the latter this charming hamlet is connected by both steam and rail, as it is a station on the C. M. & S. P. R. R., and only a mile and a half from Lake Mendota. Added to the natural advantages it enjoys in common with its distinguished neighbor, there are several considerations that give it a character peculiar to itself. About four miles from the station there is a large cavern known as Richardson's Cave, easily accessible by carriage, which has excited the wonder and admiration of thousands. The cave is of natural formation, but according to tradition has furnished a safe retreat for outlaws, who were not uncommon in the pioneer days of Wisconsin, and who found at this spot a convenient depot for plunder and place of rendezvous near the settlements, while their operations extended southward into Illinois and westward far into Iowa. On the very site of the peaceful village of to-day, once stood the camp of Blackhawk's dusky army, and where now the church bell calls the people to thoughts of love and mercy, the scalp dance of the savage braves was celebrated, not so long ago but that people yet live who fled as the invading Indians' horrid yell broke the stillness of the lovely valley. The adjacent country is devoted to farming and stock raising, and prosperity has long shone upon the locality. All that is left to remind the older settlers of the struggles of early days, is an occasional tomahawk blade or arrow-head picked up now and then, as the good wife trowels her garden beds, or the farmer turns a furrow in the wheat field.