WISCONSIN.

The State of Wisconsin lies between 42° 30′ and 47° N. latitude, and between 87° and 92° 30′ W. longitude, and is bounded on the North by Lake Superior; N. E. by the northern Peninsular of Michigan, separated by a line drawn from the head waters of the Brule, to the Montreal River; on the East by Lake Michigan; on the South by Illinois; and on the West by Iowa and the Territory of Minnesota. It is estimated to contain about thirty-four and a half Millions of acres.

Entirely destitute of lofty mountains, its general surface is rolling; giving to its streams a good current, but seldom delighting the eye with cascades. The most hilly part of the State which has been surveyed, and the nearest approach to mountains are the bluffs of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, which rise several hundred feet above the waters that glide beneath them. The general surface of the State is about 800 feet above the level of the ocean. In the region of Lake Superior, the streams are short and precipitous; the declevity being more abrupt than in any other part of the State. The soil is generally excellent; not inferior, as a whole to any State in the Union. With the exception of the pineries and the mineral region of Lake Superior, it would be difficult finding an equal amount of natural facilities and advantages for agriculture. Three grand divisions are clearly marked in the State: *Prairie*, *Opening*, and *Timber* land. The prairies predominate in the southern part of the State, and are also abundant in the West approaching to Minnesota. The heavy timbered lands lie along the west shore of Lake Michigan, in the counties of Milwaukee, Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Keewaunee, Door and part of the counties of Calument, Fond du Lac and Waukesha. The timber comprises Hickory, Black Walnut, Bass, Oak, Beach and Maple, interspersed with Pine in Sheboygan, and Pine and Hemlock in all the counties north. Black Marl

predominates in the lower timber and prairie lands; loam in the openings, and rolling prairies; and by turns, almost every variety in the upland heavy timber in the northern part of the State. Throughout the State the streams of water are more or less fringed with timber. That a geographic sketch of any section of country should serve the purpose of utility by instructing the understanding of the reader, it is indispensably necessary that it should be so drawn as to give a correct idea of its connexion with, and relation, to other locations of which the reader has some previous knowledge; otherwise it would be like an attempt to describe some definite portion of infinite space, an abortive labor. So also of history; whether of a nation, a particular section, or an individual; we must be instructed of the influences of surrounding circumstances, or we gain no full knowledge of the subject of such history. And as the object and design of this work is "to gather from still living witnesses and preserve for the future annalist, the important record of the romantic and teeming past; to seize, while yet warm and glowing, and inscribe upon the page which shall be sought hereafter, the bright visions of song, and fair images of story, that gild the gloom and lighten the sorrows of the ever fleeing *present;* to search all history with a careful eye; sound all philosophy with a careful hand; question all experience with a fearless tongue, and thence draw lessons to fit us for, and light to guide us through the shadowy, but unknown future."

To enable us, as near as possible to approximate to this grand object, and to place the county of Winnebago in a clear and comprehensive light; it will be necessary that we first invite the attention of the reader to a general, but brief description of the State of Wisconsin; that having viewed the whole, he may be the better prepared to judge of the *past*, particularly presented for his consideration. The natural wealth of Wisconsin consists in its mines, fisheries, forests, and last, yet far above all, the inexhaustible treasure of fertility in its soil; which in connexion with other advantages has already made it one of the great *producing* States. The salubrity of its atmosphere and purity of its waters, so congenial to health give it a preference in the mind of the emigrant to locations of the greatest fertility which are not thus favored. All the products common to temperate climates are success-

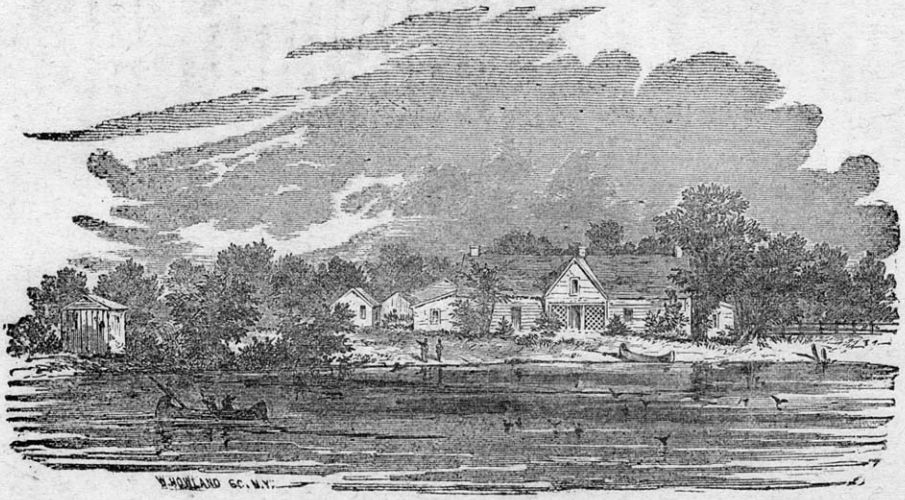
fully cultivated in Wisconsin. The natural pasturage of the prairies, marshes, openings and woodlands constitute it a perfect grazing country; and enables the new settler to keep as much stock as his business or necessities require, without cost (except the curing) of hay for winter, which the marshes supply in abundance. Much good stock may now be found, where the country has been settled for six or eight years; and wool-growing is becoming a prominent business with many farmers. In the southern part of the State corn is produced with very little cost. But wheat is the great staple grain of Wisconsin; of which it exported in 1855 more than four millions of bushels, of a quality surpassing that of other Western States; that of the northern being esteemed better than that of the southern part of the State. No part of the *Great West* offers a more inviting field of enterprize than Wisconsin. No other State possesses so many natural advantages without greater drawbacks; and no other State can boast of equal prosperity and success for the last five years; and yet, but a mere fraction of her agricultural resources have been developed. Her almost boundless forests of pine are only beginning to be brought into market; her inexhaustible mines of lead, copper and iron are beyond the power of computation; and the fisheries of Lake Superior and Michigan have but just commenced to be known as a source of wealth.

To avoid the danger of a simple statement of facts being received by strangers as the romance of imagination, we shall occasionally present tables of various articles of Wisconsin growth and manufacture from the Lake ports, which amounted in 1855 to more than eighteen millions of dollars—a sum, which considering the infancy of the State, and that as a general rule, the settlers in Wisconsin were men who were not able to purchase land in the older States, speaks well for its resources and the energy of its people.

Great inconvenience is experienced in most of the Western States for the want of lumber. Wisconsin has an abundant supply. North of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers the land is more broken and hilly; much of which is covered with a luxurious growth of pine; the quantity manufactured from the various regions or lumbering points in 1854, was estimated as follows:

Black River,	48,000,000
Chippewa,	60,000,000
Green Bay and Oconto,	100,000,000
Manitowoc,	35,000,000
St. Croix,	70,000,000
Red Cedar River,	20,000,000
Wisconsin,	125,000,000
Wolf River,	40,000,000
Total,	498,000,000

This estimation did not include the amount floated down the Wolf into the Fox River and thence into Lake Winnebago. Not less than thirty steam mills along the shores of this River and Lake are constantly supplied from this source; and several millions are annually carried by Rail Road from the head of the Lake to Rock River and thence floated to a southern market. There are also numerous mills scattered over other sections, from which no statistics have been obtained, which, in all, would warrant the manufacture in the State as high as five hundred and fifty millions of feet in 1854, since which time the business has increased at least 50 ₱ cent. Shingles, lath, staves, posts &c., are not included in this estimate. We shall have occasion to speak more particularly of the pine which comes into Fox River in connexion with the county of Winnebago.



DOTY'S ISLAND. From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

POPULATION OF WISCONSIN.

The increase of population, and progress in wealth and improvements, of an agricultural district for a series of years, is always the most reliable source of information, from which to draw conclusions, and strike a just ballance between the aggregates of advantages and disadvantages of a new country with which we were not personally acquainted. To supply this source of information and make it as perfect as possible, with great care we have copied every enumeration which can be found upon the official records of Wisconsin. The reader will be able to judge for himself whether sterility, dearth or disease have ever materially retarded the growth of Wisconsin.

It will be remembered that all the enumerations prior to 1836 were made as part of Michigan Territory. Twenty years ago, this beautiful State was almost an unbroken wilderness, with less than twelve thousand inhabitants, scattered upon its broad surface; and these mostly adventurers, seeking the advantages of trafic with the Indians, and other fortuitious circumstances which might occur in the romantic scenes of the almost unexplored regions of the "Great West." In less than twenty years the population becomes more than half a million. Indian villages have given place to populous cities; the Indian trail is buried under the track of the Railroad; the wigwam has made room for the stately farm house; and for these successive years, the former hunting grounds have been the broad wheat fields, whose exhaustless treasure has supplied the necessities of the famishing East. From 1850 to 1855 the table shows an increase of about Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand; the increased facilities for travel, a better knowledge of the West, together with the unusual hard seasons at the East, have all contributed to give a more rapid increase to the population of Wisconsin for the past year, than at any former period.

CENSUS OF WISCONSIN FROM 1820 TO 1855.

COUNTIES.	1820	1830	1834	1836	1838	1840	1842	1846	1847	1850	1855
Adams,	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...187	6,868
Bad Axe	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,823
Brown	952	964	1,957	2,706	3,048	2,107	2,146	2,662	2,914	6.223	6,699
Buffalo	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	832
Calumet	....	....	....	....	....	275	407	836	1,060	1,746	3,631
Chippewa	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	615	3,638
Clark	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	838
Columbia	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,969	3,791	9,565	17,965
Crawford	492	692	810	1,220	850	1,503	1,449	1,444	1,409	2,399	3 323
Dane	....	....	....	....	172	314	776	8,289	10,935	16,654	37,714
Dodge	....	....	....	....	18	67	149	7,787	14,905	19,140	34,540
Door	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	739
Douglass	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	385
Dunn	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,550
Fond du Lac	....	....	....	....	....	139	295	3,544	7,459	14,512	24,784
Grant	....	....	....	....	2,763	3,926	5,937	12,034	11,720	16,169	23,175
Green	....	....	....	....	494	930	1,594	4,758	6,487	8,583	14,727
Iowa	....	1,589	2,633	3,218	5,234	3,078	5,029	14,906	7,963	10,479	15,205
Jackson	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,098
Jefferson	....	....	....	....	463	914	1,638	8,860	11,464	15,339	26,869
Keewaunee	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,109
Kenosha	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10,730	12,507
La Crosse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3,904
La Fayette	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,335	11,556	16,064
La Pointe	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	364	595	417
Manitowoc	....	....	....	....	....	235	263	629	1,285	3,712	13,048
Marathon	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	466	1,447
Marquette	....	....	....	....	....	18	59	986	2,261	8,642	14,873
Milwaukee	....	....	....	2,892	3,131	5,605	9,565	15,922	22,791	31,119	46,265
Monroe	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,407
Oconto	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,501
Outagamie	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,914
Ozaukee	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12,973
Pierce	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,720
Polk	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	547
Portage	....	....	....	....	....	1,623	646	931	1,504	1,267	5,151
Racine	....	....	....	....	2,054	3,475	6,318	17,983	19,238	14,971	20,673
Richland	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	903	5,584
Rock	....	....	....	....	....	1,701	2,867	12,405	14,720	30,717	31,364
St. Croix	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,419	1,674	624	2,040
Sauk	....	....	....	....	....	102	393	1,003	2,178	4,372	13,614
Shawauno	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	254
Sheboygan	....	....	....	....	....	133	227	1,637	5,580	8,386	20,391
Trempeleau	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	493
Walworth	....	....	....	....	1,019	2,611	4,618	13,439	15,039	17,866	22,662
Washington	....	....	....	....	64	343	965	7,473	15,447	19,476	18,897
Waukesha	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13,793	15,866	19,324	24,012
Waupacca	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,437
Waushara	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,541
Winnebago	....	....	....	....	....	135	143	732	2,748	10,167	17,439
Total	1,444	3,245	5,460	11,618	18,130	30945	44478	155277	210546	305566	552109

This population is spread over fifty counties, into which the State is divided as follows:

ADAMS—Lies on the Wisconsin, and is watered by the Lemonwier and other rivers. Springs and small streams are abundant; has as good land for agricultural purposes as in any part of the State; warm, quick and extremely productive. Openings predominate, yet there are many dense forests; some excellent pine. Population 6,407, and rapidly increasing. Here is much excellent land, yet subject to entry at government price. Germantown is the County Seat. Mauston is the largest village in the county. Quincy, Cascade, Dell Prairie, Neceda, Dustin's Mills, and Wauceda are new and prosperous villages. The La Crosse and Milwaukee Rail Road passes through this county.

BAD AX—Is one of the best of counties, notwithstanding its ridiculous name,—which should be exchanged for a better one—lies on the Mississippi River, well watered, good water-power; prairie, interspersed with fine timber-land; some good pine. Viroqua, the county seat, is situated in a beautiful grove. Springvale and Towerville have each excellent flouring mills. Population 4,823, with a great increase for the last year.

BROWN—Was originally one of the *three* counties in this State and embraced all the State North of Milwaukee, and East of Wisconsin River, but is now reduced to one of the smallest counties in Wisconsin. Green Bay, one of the most ancient settlements in the State is situated at the mouth of the lower Fox, the largest River in the State. The Fox River Improvement is giving to this place new life and importance.

BUFFALO—Lies on the Mississippi River at the mouth of the Chippewa; it is but thinly inhabited, but containing the best of land subject to entry or pre-emption is rapidly filling up with enterprizing settlers. Well watered and offers superior advantages to locate a desirable homestead at $1,25 per acre. It is in the La Crosse land district and entries can be made only at that place. Waumandee City is the county seat fifty miles up the river from La Crosse.

CALUMET—Is generally covered with a heavy growth of hard timber with a little pine in the north eastern part; lies on the east side of Lake Winnebago; is the residence of the remnants of the Stockbridge and Brothertown Indians which has materially retarded its progress; has a fertile soil and well watered. Population 3,633. Has increased very rapidly the past year.

CHIPPEWA—This county in the northern part of the State is 91 miles long and 66 miles wide, a small part only has been surveyed and brought into market. In this county is agricultural land of an excellent quality, and one of the most valuable pineries in the State. Here is abundance of land subject to entry, offering to the hardy woodsman the most inviting prospects. There are several mills in constant operation; one at Chippewa Falls which cuts daily about 60,000 feet and employs 400 men to supply, manufacture, market the lumber, &c.

COLUMBIA—Is situated nearly in the center of the populated part of the State, lies on the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers. Nearly the whole of the county is rolling prairies; good soil, well watered, but deficient in timber. Land all entered almost as soon as it was in market. County seat Portage City; at this place the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers are two miles apart, but connected by a canal. The La Crosse and Milwaukee and the Milwaukee and Watertown Railroads will soon pass through this county. The Wisconsin Central Road has its northern terminus at Portage. The population of this county in 1850 was 9,565; in 1855 17,960; increase in five years 8,395.

CRAWFORD—County formerly embraced all of the State north of the Wisconsin River, but has been whittled and shaved down to a small territory, lying in the angle made by the Wisconsin and Kickapoo passing through its center. The county seat is at the old military post "Prairie du Chien," a beautiful location on the Mississippi River. The county is well watered and en excellent soil; has a good pinery on the Kickapoo. Abundance of lead and some copper have been found with very little exploration. As the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad approaches this, its western terminus, the county advances rapidly. Much good government land can yet be found here.

CLARK—County has recently been set off from Chippewa, and has but few inhabitants but lumbermen; has a vast forest of pine, and much good farming land which may yet be entered at government price. A flouring mill on Black River at Weston's Rapids, where the road passes from Steven's Point to Hudson.

DANE.—This county is in the southern part of the State, about half way between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. One of the best agricultural counties in the State. Rolling prairie and openings. Madison is the county seat and the Capitol of the State; possesses much wealth and beauty. In 1850 the population of this county was 16,689. In 1855 37,714, and still increasing with greet rapidity.

DOOR—Is a narrow strip lying between Green Bay and Lake Michigan, with very few inhabitants. Much of the land is said to be good; government land, by the graduating act is here but fifty cents per acre, and is now rapidly being taken by actual settlers. Here is some good pine. Some of the Islands are in this county. The principal settlement is Washington Harbor on Washington Island, opposite Green Bay.

DODGE—Is one of the first class for agriculture. Its surface is moderately rolling, diversified with prairies, openings and some heavy wood lands; with a good supply of water-power. Iron Ridge is a vast accumulation of rich iron ore, which is just beginning to be extensively manufactured; farms are valuable. Juneau is the county seat. Beaver Dam, Horicon and Fox Lake are fine villages, rapidly improving. Two Wards of the city of Watertown are in Dodge county, the other three are in Jefferson. Population of the county 34,054. Well supplied with Railroads.

DOUGLAS.—This county lies on the shore of Lake Superior; was set off from La Pointe in 1854. Only a small share has been surveyed and brought into market. This is on the north line of the State, yet the winters are represented very mild. The first settlement was made at Superior, in 1853, and in 1855 there was a population of 700. This will undoubtedly become a place of great importance in a very short time; those who are willing to isolate themselves from the old world for a few years for the sake of making a fortune, here find a promising and romantic field. The land abounds with mineral wealth and the waters with fish. It is the head of the long line of lake navigation; and will ere long be in connection with the Atlantic cities by continuous Railroads. Lands can now be entered at government price. Forest game is abundant.

DUNN—Is a new county lying on the Chippewa River about fifty miles from the Mississippi; has but few settlers though the soil is excellent and well watered, with some timber and hard wood, sufficient for fuel and fences. Its resources are yet undeveloped, the lands not entered.

FOND DU LAC County has a population of 25,085. As we have published a history of this county we refer the reader to that work.

GRANT.—This County is in the southwest corner of the State, and one of the oldest settlements. Its mineral wealth attracted its early settlement, although the fertility of its soil is not surpassed by any other county, yet its distance from market has checked the progress of agriculture beyond the necessities of a home market and kept lands cheap. Great quantities of lead are found and manufactured here. There is yet in the northern part of the county excellent government land, which, by the graduation law is now reduced to fifty-cents per acre. The low price of land, the excellence of the soil, the approach of Railroads and the advanced price of produce have all tended to increase the population for the last two years. Farmers who want desirable homesteads can make great profits by purchasing in this county. Population in 1850 16,196, in 1855 23,130.

GREEN—Is an agricultural county in the south part of the State, bordering on Illinois. Its good lands are all taken and becoming sources of wealth, it has some timber lands though prairies predominate; its waterpowers are generally improved. Population 14,715. Monroe is the county seat, with a population of 2,120.

IOWA—Is a very rich county, both in soil and minerals. Copper and lead are abundant, and what is not common in mineral regions, the soil is of the best quality. Well watered, convenient to Railroads, and yet some good government land to be had. Mineral Point is the oldest settlement and has smelting works for lead and copper. It is the central point for mineral operations. Population 14,440.

JACKSON County is situated on the Black River about twenty-five miles from the Mississippi. The northern part of this county is richly supplied with fine timber, and the southern part is mostly prairie of the best quality. Has abundance

of rich iron ore and good waterpower, and is rapidly settling. A vast amount of lumber is floated down Black River. Iron works of various kinds in process of erection. The lands are not all entered.

JEFFERSON County has but a small share of prairie, having openings and a small amount of timber land; supplies a good amount of timber. It lies on Rock River, which, with its branches, furnish good waterpower. It is a rich and beautiful county. Watertown is the principal place, but there are several large and flourishing villages, with all the conveniences and elegances of wealth. Railroads supply the county with an easy transportation of their products. Lands are high. Population in 1850 15,000, in 1855 26,866.

KENOSHA—Is in the south-east corner of the State, on Lake Michigan; one of the oldest counties in the State, nearly all prairie, and in a high state of cultivation, all necessary improvements to make land truly valuable. Population 12,373.

KEWAUNEE—Extends from Lake Michigan to Green Bay; has but few inhabitants whose business is principally lumbering. Here is plently of government land and generally very good, though being heavily timbered it is not so easy for beginners.

LACROSSE—Lies upon the Mississippi and Black Rivers, is to be the terminus of the Lacrosse and Milwaukee Railroad, reaps advantages from the vast pinery on Black River, has good farming land and is reputed very healthy. These combined advantages have attracted great attention for the past two years, and much of the land has been taken, yet some good government land can be found.

LAFAYETTE County is in the mineral region and its mines have engrossed almost the entire energies of the people; the soil is rich and inviting but has been neglected for the more uncertain business of mining; but the stimulus which has become so general in the State for agriculture has began to operate in Lafayette county. The Population is now 16,000 and is fast increasing. The Mineral Point and Southern Wisconsin Railroad passes through this county.

LA POINTE County is a tract of wilderness about fifty-four miles square on Lake Superior and a group of Islands called

the "Twelve Apostles." It has not been surveyed, and very little is known of it only that it abounds with timber, is supposed to contain minerals and has an excellent fishery.

MARATHON—Extends from Lake Michigan south to Towns 26 and 27 a distance of 128 miles, in its greatest width it is 42 miles; partly surveyed and begins to open a field for lumbering. The great part of this tract is yet owned by the government and like the rest of the lumber regions its principal value is in its prime.

MARQUETTE.—This is a beautiful agricultural county lying along the Fox River; prairie, openings and woodland, well watered and has water power. Some of the most delightful farms in the State may be found in this county. The best lands are all entered and rapidly coming under cultivation. In 1850 the population was 8,642, since that time Waushara county has been set off from it and its population thus diminished was in 1855 14,824. The Railroad from Horicon will soon reach Berlin in this county.

MANITOWOC—On the shore of Lake Michigan about eighty miles north of Milwaukee, good land, well watered and timbered, harbor at the mouth of Manitowoc River; is rapidly increasing in business and population. A Railroad is now in progress of building from this place to Menasha. Population 13,050.

MONROE County was set off from Lacrosse in 1854, is yet almost an entire wilderness of oak opening and pine groves; the soil is generally light, but quick, warm and productive; watered by the Lacrosse and Lemonweir rivers, principally government land, many choice selections can yet be had. Here are also some of the best pine groves in the State. Population 2,151.

MILWAUKEE—Is too generally known to require a notice in this work. Its population is 46,027.

OCONTO—Is one of those almost limitless, unsurveyed and unexplored counties of timber, and inferior soil, lying along Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Lumbermen can make good investments here. Population 1,502.

OUTAGAMIE—Lies on the Wolf and Lower Fox Rivers, with the happy combination of navigable waters, the best

water-power in the State, plenty of valuable timber, and an excellent soil. Appleton is its principal village and the location of Lawrence University one of the finest institutions in the State. The government land is not all taken, and the multiplied advantages are now drawing a crowd of settlers to this county. Population 4,940.

OZAUKEE—Is on the Lake shore, next north of Milwaukee; has but eight towns, cut into small farms, well cultivated, and of course lands are held at high prices. Population 12,977.

PIERCE—Is a new county on the Mississippi at the mouth of the St. Croix River, the soil of part of this county is good and part covered with pine, plenty of water-power. Land mostly subject to entry. Population 1,548.

POLK—Was cut off from the northern part of St. Croix, and comprises more than 2,500 square miles, has but a few scattering inhabitants, has much good farming and timber lands subject to entry. Timber, prairie, and openings are beautifully interspersed in the southern part of the county. Trout and various kinds of fish are abundant in small lakes and streams.

PORTAGE—Is on the Wisconsin River, several of its branches pass through it. Lumbering is its great business, pine is the prevailing timber, the soil generally light and sandy, yet there are glades of hardwood, sugar-maple &c., with strips of the very best of soil for agriculture, much of which is now being brought under cultivation. The great number of hands employed in the manufacture of lumber have hitherto been supplied from other regions.

RACINE—Lies on the lake, south of Milwaukee, a small county of excellent land, thickly settled, land in a high state of cultivation and very valuable. Population 20,667.

ROCK County lies on both sides of Rock River, is bounded by the State of Illinois south. Prairie and openings but no timber land; the soil very rich, but there is a lack of water in some parts of the county. The county is highly prosperous, farms well improved, productive and valuable. Railroads accommodate every part. Population 31,364.

RICHLAND—Lies on the north side of the Wisconsin River, is but thinly settled, good soil, well watered and well timbered with maple, walnut, oak and pine, interspersed with rich

prairies, the surface is rolling, the water pure and soft and abounds with fish. Much land remains to be entered. The line of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad passes along the south line of this county.

SAUK County is north and west of the Wisconsin river. The Baraboo passes through this county; north of which the soil is rich and well adapted to agriculture. On the south rise the Wisconsin bluffs, stony and precipitous. Forests, openings and prairies constitute the farming land, with pine up the Baraboo. There is much unsettled land in this county. The line of the Milwaukee and Lacrosse Railroad crosses this county. Population 13,644.

SHEBOYGAN—Lies on the Lake shore, fifty miles north of Milwaukee; is well timbered with walnut, maple, oak, beach and pine; good soil, mostly settled and productive; land is high. Population 20,391.

SHAWAUNO—Is mostly covered with pine timber, which is easily floated down Wolf river. The soil is a sandy loam and fertile, lying on an elevation above the river, is dry and warm. Here can yet be found good government land.

ST. CROIX—Has a gently rolling surface with all the varieties of soil. Prairie, openings, and forests of the various kinds of hardwood and good pine. It lies at the lower end of the St. Croix river, manufactures much lumber and is now attracting much attention. Population 2,040.

TREMPELEAU—Was set off from Buffalo in 1854 and contains about twenty Townships of land of an excellent quality for farming purposes, offering great inducements to immigrants as the lands are now in market at government prices. It is watered by the Trempeleau and its branches, and bounded by the Mississippi and Black rivers. A few villages are springing up on the banks of these rivers.

WASHINGTON—Lies a little back from Lake Michigan, twenty-five miles north of Milwaukee, heavily timbered; good soil; cut into small farms and well cultivated, principally by Germans and Irish. Population 18,897.

WAUPACCA—Is new, but rapidly settling, lies on both sides of Wolf river, has prairie, openings, timber, hard and pine almost in every part of the county; an excellent soil and well watered. Steamboats pass through this county from Oshkosh to New London. Plenty of government land.

WAUKESHA—Joins Milwaukee on the west; an excellent agricultural county, with some waterpower; was settled early and now has some of the best farms in the State. Population 24,012.

WALWORTH—An excellent agricultural county, was settled early and has now all the conveniences and luxuries attendant upon industry and prosperity. Population 22,662.

WAUSHARA—Formerly known as the "Indian Lands" was set off from Marquette in 1851. The Fox river passes through one corner of this county; it possesses a good soil and offers strong inducements to immigrants in its fortunate combination of openings and timberland; well watered, with good waterpower; a navigable river, and a rapidly approaching Railroad, and yet plenty of government land. Population 5,541.

UNSURVEYED LANDS.

Besides the lands which have been surveyed and brought into market there are large tracts yet unsurveyed and almost unexplored, as very little is known of them except from the reports of Hunters and Indian traders. The amount of the unsurveyed land is estimated at about 14,500 square miles; principally lying in the northwesterly part of the State, and almost without inhabitannts, except the remnants of a few scattered tribes of Indians who make this their hunting grounds, although their titles are nearly all extinguished. These lands are reported to be covered with hemlock, spruce, interspersed with groves of pine, tamarack and cedar swamps and occasional ridges of great extent of hardwood, sugar-maple being abundant; with plentiful springs and streams of pure soft water, abounding with fish; the soil appears of an excellent quality. These ridges afford natural and convenient routes for roads at various distances through a large share of this region, and although this vast territory is at present esteemed nearly worthless, the period may not be very remote when the now rapidly increasing population of the more southern and fertile soils, which are destitute of timber, will demand supplies from this vast wilderness. Minerals are presumed to exist in this broken region, yet all is matter of conjecture, and it must be the work of future generations to discover whatever resources it may possess.

FIRST SETTLEMENT AND GOVERNMENT.

The earliest known visitors from the civilized world to Wisconsin, was in October 1660, when Mesnard, with his company of French Missionaries arrived at Che-goi-megon on Lake Superior. In 1672 Hlones and Dablon visited Green Bay and explored the country from the Fox river to the southern part of Lake Michigan. The next year Marquette, a Jesuit missionary with Joilet, an agent of the French government, and five other Frenchmen, embarked from their mission, near Mackinac, on the 13th of May. They arrived at Green Bay, where they found an Indian settlement or village, and procured guides to conduct them up the Fox river to Portage on the Wisconsin, which they descended until they reached its mouth, on the 17th of June 1673. This was the first discovery of the Upper Mississippi river.

The French claimed, and held the government of the territory until 1763, when at the treaty of Paris, it was ceded to Great Britain, who retained it until the Independence of the United States was acknowledged by that country in 1783, when it was claimed by Virginia as a part of the Illinois country, conquered by Col. George Rogers Clark. Its possession was retained by Great Britain until 1796, when it was surrendered in accordance with Jay's treaty, ratified the previous year. On the first of March, 1784 it was ceded by Virginia to the United States. By the Ordinance of the 13th of July 1787, a government was provided for the Territoty northwest of the Ohio river, which Territory was divided into two separate governments, the western called Indiana, by an act passed May 7th 1800. An act dividing Indiana Territory and organizing Illinois was passed February 3d 1809. April 18th 1818, an act of Congress authorizing the people of Illinois to form a State government, set off all that portion of the Territory north of the parallel of latitude 42° 30′ and west of the middle of Lake Michigan, to the Territory of Michigan. In 1835 Michigan having assumed a State government on the east side of the Lake, a session of the Territorial Legislature was convened at Green Bay. This was the first Legislative body which had ever assembled in Wisconsin. It did no business but pass some memorials to Congress. An act of Congress establishing a territorial government for Wisconsin

was passed April 20th, 1836, and territory organized July 4th of the same year. On the 12th of June, 1838, the Territory was divided, and that portion lying west of the Mississippi organized into a new government named Iowa.

The first legislative session after the full organization of Wisconsin, was held at Belmont, (now Lafayette Co.) Oct. 25, 1836, the second in Burlington, (now in the State of Iowa,) Nov. 6th, 1837. At this session the seat of government was located at Madison, where the next session of the Legislature was held, Nov. 26th, 1838. Oct. 5th, 1846, a convention was held at Madison to propose a Constitution for a State government. This Constitution was rejected by the people at their election, the following April. A second convention was held December 16th, 1847, which prepared a Constitution, which was submitted to, and approved by the people, at the April election, and Wisconsin admitted into the union of sovereign States, May 20th, 1848.

Although Wisconsin is yet in its infancy, so richly has industry been rewarded with abundant and valuable crops, that Railroads have already sprung into existence and successful operation, in various directions, through nearly all the populous counties, and like a resistless current, are stretching themselves through the newer counties to the Mississippi, westward, and through the vast forests, northwestward, to the copper mines and lake Superior.

The traveler in Wisconsin will find abundant means of conveyance to enable him to visit any part of the State which is inhabited. Steamboats are continually running between all the ports on Lake Michigan and to Green Bay. From Fond-du-Lac to Neenah and Menasha on Lake Winnebago, and thence to Green Bay. From Oshkosh to Berlin on Fox river; from Oshkosh to New London, on the Wolf. From Green Bay up the Oconto. On the Mississippi the whole of its boundary length. On the St. Croix, as far up as the town of that name, and as many other streams for short distances as business requires. Large business towns not accessable by Railroad or Steamboat, are frequently visited by eight, ten, or a dozen stages and express carriages per day.

There are many plank roads in the State which serve a valuable purpose for a time; leading from rich agricultural

districts to port towns; can only serve the purpose of convenience for a brief period, and the ever increasing business demands that they give place to the iron rail and the steam engine.

That the reader should obtain some just conception of the products of Wisconsin, he should first be informed that the vast amount of immigration to the unsettled lands in this State and in Minnesota absorbs the surplus produce of the frontier settlements for a large distance, and that we have no data for the amount of this home market, and then look at the exports from the different Lake towns, where tables are kept of nearly all that is shipped to a foreign market.

In 1854 the shipments from the port of Racine of Wisconsin produce and manufacture as entered upon the books of collectors and other places of record, amounted in total value to $1,381,691.

Kenosha,	$1,710,337
Milwaukee,	5,785,000

Of which 2,052,319 bushels of wheat, and 155,651 barrels of flour formed a part. Five mills on the waterpower near the city made 100,000 barrels of the flour. The shipments, the same year, as near as can be ascertained, from

Ozaukee,	$160,000
Sheboygan,	663,169
Manitowoc,	880,270
Green Bay,	194,435
From the Bay shore of Lumber and Fish,	374,435

These exports do not include any of the Copper or Lead of Wisconsin, the latter being principally shipped from Galena goes to the credit of Illinois, while in 1854 the amount from the Wisconsin mines was estimated at 15,000 tons.

The Copper is shipped on Lake Superior, the value of which is great but we have no reliable data from which to estimate, but feel that it is safe to say the entire exports of Wisconsin, including lumber and metals, cannot fall short of $20,000,000. And this in a State, which, since the memory of young and vigorous men, had neither seed, field or plow, Bible or spelling-book.

INDIAN CHIEF, OSHKOSH.

From Daguerreotype by J. F. Harrison

ANTIQUITIES.

We borrow the following sketch from the *Tribune*. "Few subjects have a stronger claim on the people of the West than the aboriginal remains scattered over the land. They constitute the only mementos and annals transmitted to us from the ancient races that once inhabited its broad prairies and dwelt on the rising shores of its beautiful lakes and rivers.

To the liberality of the Smithsonian Institute, we are indebted for a late publication, on the antiquities of Wisconsin, a work of merit, and preared with much research and care by I. A. Lapham.

The antiquities described in the above publication are chiefly earthworks, with occasional excavations—varying in figure, size and elevation. These are found in numerous localities, near the borders of the lakes, or on the margin of water-courses all over the State. It is curious to notice that they are chiefly found at points already selected as the most favorable sites for modern settlement, showing that the instincts of both civilized and uncivilized are alike attracted to those localities which combine at once the beautiful and the useful.

In proceeding north on Lake Michigan, the first point noticeable for its remains, is a few miles south of the Wisconsin line, in Illinois, where are found some nine conical or round mounds from three to five feet in heighth, and about thirty feet in diameter. These are disposed in a serpentine row along the crest of a ridge of sand, and were undoubtedly burial places of the dead.

At Kenosha were found indications of a manufactory of arrow heads, and other articles of flint, for which abundant of material was furnished by the boulders and pebbles along the lake beach and shore.

At Racine there are a number of very interesting remains, chiefly on the high ground near Root river, from one to two miles form the Lake. Here are numerous circular burial mounds, though of a small size and elevation, embraced in

one circular enclosure, with several tapering ridges. The mounds are without systematic arrangement, from five to fifty feet in diameter, and from one to seven feet in height. Dr. Hoy, of Racine, opened one in which were found the skeletons of seven persons, in a sitting posture, facing the east, but accompanied with ornaments. In another he discovered two vases of pottery, one made of cream colored clay and white sand, like pale brick, of the capacity of five quarts, the other, which was of a red brick color, was smaller. Both are thought to resemble those in culinary use among the Burmese. The great antiquity of these remains is made clear by the gigantic size of the trees now standing on them—one with three hundred rings, showing as Dr. Hoy estimates an antiquity of a thousand years. But the most numerous group of these mounds lies about a mile west of Racine, and a part of them has been embraced in the modern cemetry of that beautiful city.

The numerous earthworks about Milwaukee, attest at once the attractiveness of that favorite locality to the aboriginal inhabitants. They extend from Kinnickinnic Creek, near the "Indian Fields," where they are most abundant, to a point six miles above the city. They occupy the high grounds contiguous to the Lake and streams, but not the immediate shore, and a considerable number are appropriately enclosed in the "Forest home" cemetery of Milwaukee. Many of the mounds in this region are of large extent; chiefly from one hundred to four hundred feet in diameter, and are laid out in fanciful forms, resembling the figures of turtles, lizards, birds, the otter and buffalo; not a few have the form of a war-club. In some instances one mound is elevated so as to overlook or command many others, which has led to the conjecture of its being either an observatory, or more probably, an altar mound for sacrificial or religious rites.

At Sheboygan and Manitowoc, similar antiquities are found though to a smaller extent. Many bear resemblance to simple breast-works for defense, being about four feet in height, and twelve feet broad at the base.

On leaving the lake shore, fine remains are to be found on the borders of the interior waters of Wisconsin. On the Fox or Pishtaka river, are several interesting localities—one a little north of west from Chicago, where were counted on the

brow of a hill twenty seven mounds from one to four and a half feet in height, and from fifteen to twenty-five feet long. The principal points of interest on the Pishtaka are at and near Waukesha, where have been disintered many pipes and specimens of pottery, and in the neighborhood of the village of Pewaukee where is a remarkable collection of lizard and turtle mounds—one having a length of four hundred and fifty feet.

The basin of Rock River with its tributaries is perhaps exceeded by no part of the North-west in the interesting character of these aboriginal remains. Without particularizing those found a few miles above Fulton, where the river expands into a beautiful lake, abounding in fish, a natural attraction to the red man, it may be worth while to notice more at length, the more remarkable remains found at what has been termed the "ancient city of Aztalan." The locality has attracted much notice as one of the wonders of the West, and exaggerated accounts have gone forth of its brick walls and buttresses —its stone arches, &c., in all of which there is hardly any shadow of truth. These remains were first discovered in 1836, and hastily surveyed by N. F. Hyer, Esq., the year following.

On the West branch of Rock River may be seen a ridge of earth (not of brick) extending around three sides of an irregular parallelogram—the river forming the fourth side. Its length, at the north end is, is 331 feet; on the west side 1,419 feet, and 700 feet on the south side, making an average length of 2,750 feet, and enclosing an area of seventeen and two-thirds acres. The ridge is about 22 feet width, and from one to five feet high, the corners not rectangular, and the embankment not straight. The so-called buttresses are simply enlargement, about 40 feet in diameter, at intervals warping from 61 to 95 feet, giving the appearance of so many mounds, with a connecting ridge. Irregular masses of red clay in the embankment, in some instances partially baked by burning burning grass or straw, have led to the popular belief of the employment of brick in its construction.

At the south-west corner, of the interior, is found a truncated mound, having a level area on the top 53 feet wide on its west side, and seen from high ground near has the appearance of a pyramid "rising by successive steps, like the gigantic structures of Mexico." This is supposed to have been the

most sacred spot, as well as the highest. The exterior wall curves around this pyramid, and is also protracted by two parallel walls outside the embankment. A similar pyramid elevation is found at the north-west corner, while various low and smaller ridges are to be seen within the enclosure, with connecting rings or circles, supposed to be the remains of mud houses.

The structure above described was intended for sepulchral or other religious uses, rather than for military defence, is made probable by the disinterment of half-burned human remains from one of the buttresses, together with fragments of pottery and charcoal. It is confirmed by the material fact that the whole structure is commanded, in a military point of view, by a parallel ridge, extending along the west side, within arrow shot distance.

The strong resemblance this structure bears to the temple mounds of Ohio and the States south, places it in the same family with that class which finds its highest type in the finished monuments of Mexican art. Hence the name given to this locality of Aztalan—a derivative from the Aztecs of Mexico, among whom existed the tradition of a migration from the north. The dissimilarity of these remains to the animal shaped mounds commonly found in the West, is worthy of notice, and it may have been, as Mr. Lapham supposes, a sort of Mecca, the perodical resort of the race that constructed it. It is sad to say, however, that this highly interesting work of antiquity, like many others, is suffering injury at the hands of civilized man, who is furrowing it for grain, or digging for its hidden treasures. Cannot this work of the stroyer be stayed, and these precious monuments of a race that no longer lives to tell its story be preserved.

Besides the antiquities of Aztalan, there are yet others in the valley of Rock river, beyond Ixonia, at Wolf Point, memoriable as the point where Black Hawk made his stand in 1812. At Hartford, there has been found a bird-shaped stone, much revered by the Winnebago Indians, and five miles farther, a ridge one thousand feet in length. But the most extensive and varied group is at Horicon, numbering about two hundred common mounds, among which are modern graves of the Pottawattamies; sixteen of the mounds are of a cruciform shape.

It would require more space than propriety allows to give in detail the various works of antiquity on the Neenah or Fox river or Green Bay—on a branch of Grand river where are some one hundred mounds, one called, from its figure, "the man" though with some inequality in the length of its members—on the basin of the fine Wisconsin river, where at the "Dells of the Wisconsin," is an enclosure with an area of 45,088 square feet, large enough to hold 2,000 persons, fortified by double walls which may have been protected by palisides; and at Iron Creek, is still another fort surrounded by a fosse or ditch in a parallelogram, and symmetrical in its figure. We might pass on to notice the curiosities of the Lake Vieux Desert, with its beautiful island so favorable for cultivation and defence to the primitive race, and showing an interesting elliptical embankment in its centre; and the yet more attractive remains in the region of Lake Superior, where have been found mounds in the forms of mathematical figures, one in a regular pyramid, like that in the walls of Aztalan.

Should the reader desire a more detailed account of these reliques of American antiquity, and others, we have not particulary referred to, at Madison and elsewhere, he will find them in Mr. Lapham's valuable memorials, from which we have freely drawn. It is gratifying that public attention is directed to these remains which deserve a thorough examination from men of science. It is clear that but little is yet known of them. Farther and more careful examination may throw a flood of light upon the race who have left them to us, of whom we now know little more than a glimpse at these remarkable earth-mounds reveals—a few bones, a few bits of pottery, pipes, wrought sometimes in artistic forms, a few rude implements—this is all. A single example of hieroglyphic characters is given us at Gale's Bluff, near La Crosse, on the Mississippi, forbidding the hope of learning much, save by inference and comparison. Yet much is possible to scientific research, as is witnessed in the long obscured monuments of Egypt and Babylon.

Mr. Lapham supposes that the race who left the greater part of these monuments where the progenitors of the existing Indian tribes, and that this is rendered probable by the resemblance of the pots and vases in figure &c., to those now found in old Indian villages, and to those still made

by the Mandan and other tribes. He also supposes there was a gradual transition in the form of the mounds. They are found in all figures, from the full circle through the oval and elongated mounds to the oblong and long ridges. He considers the oldest to embrace those formed in the figures of animals, and the great works at Aztalan; that the next in the order of time were the conical mounds erected for sepulchral uses—these coming down to a recent period. Indications of garden beds have been found in connection with some of these mounds, which are planted in geometrical figures or in right lines; these he places latter. The most recent are those bearing marks of plantation by modern Indians, with no observance of regularity or order. This theory supposes a singular and sad degeneracy in the latter race of the red-men. It is worthy of notice, that the animal shaped mounds are chiefly confined to the territory embraced in the State of Wisconsin. A few have been referred to as in Ohio.

It is greatly to be desired that public care should be bestowed on the preservation of the few monuments left us, as the legacy from the ancient occupants of the West. Such there are in our own State—a few mementos—all we have or can have of their history. It is unfortunate for Illinois, that, among the Institutions of that State, she cannot yet number a Historical Society, to gather, garner up and elucidute the materials of her history. Wisconsin has set us an honorable example of enlightened and patriot interest in this department of science, well worthy of our imitation."

EDUCATION.

Perhaps no State in the Union is more actively and efficiently engaged in providing the means to secure to all its children a good practical education, and prepare them to become useful in the world, than the State of Wisconsin. By an act of Congress, one Section in each Township, or one thirty-sixth part of the whole State was donated for the support of its common schools; increased in 1841, by a further donation of 500,000 acres. These lands are sold according to their value, ten per cent of the purchase money is paid when the lands are entered, and the balance remains on interest at seven per cent. They have generally sold much higher than the government price; but at an average of $1,25 per acre. The School lands of Wisconsin when all sold would creat a fund of over $1,200,000; another addition will accrue from the swamp lands estimated at 3,000,000 acres, which will be valuable as meadow lands. The proceeds of these sales are put into the treasury, and the interest only divided annually pro rata to the different counties.

The State Superintendent is elected by the people and holds his office two years. His duties are the superintendence of all the schools in the State. There is also a town Superintendent in each town, and other town officers to attend to the interests of local schools. There is not only the necessary machinery, but it is generally kept in "running order," and so applied as to make the common schools the nurseries of a good practical education. Teachers are generally employed with much more reference to their qualifications and success in teaching, than to the amount paid as compensation. In towns which have been settled eight or ten years, the traveler will discover a far greater number of neat and valuable school houses, with pleasant play grounds, in Wisconsin, than among an equal number of inhabitants of the old and long settled states; and the internal arrangements of these little seminaries bring no reproach upon the outside appearances. In the counties which are mostly settled, "Teacher's Institutes" have been organized, which hold semi-annual sessions of a week; here the teachers discuss the modes of instruction

and government, the merits of the various text books, &c., through the days session; and one of their number Lectures upon some branch of education in the evening. The State Superintendent frequently attends sessions of the county Institutes, and their influence has tended to train the teachers in a course of effective usefulness, and add much to the educational interests of Wisconsin and to give to her common schools a dignity and respectability which they would not otherwise possess, and while the common schools have thus been cared for and elevated, the people have not forgotten to provide for the maturing and perfecting the education of such students, as might seek the advantages of Academic and Collegiate departments. The Congress of the United States gave 144 Sections of choice land for the benefit of a State University in Wisconsin. These lands have been selected, and the proceeds expended in the erection of the University buildings at Madison, which are already completed, and the College in successful operation. There is also one at Beloit, in Rock Co., under the especial superintendence of the Congregational and Presbyterian denominations, which is in a prosperous and flourishing condition.

Carrol College, at Waukesha, is under the charge of the Presbyterians, has a noble stone edifice, an able corps of professors, and fair prospects of eminent rank among literary institutions.

The Roman Catholics have a College with many students, at Sinsinewa Mound in Grant county, which supplies the educational necessities of the Catholic Faith.

A College at Beaver Dam in Dodge county is rapidly progressing under the auspices of the Baptist denomination, and no doubt will soon be in useful operation in that city, which now stands unrivalled in the State for its progressive energies.

PRESENT AND FUTURE.

We copy an article which was drawn up with great care, and published in the spring of 1856 in nearly every paper in the State, as giving a truthful and intelligent view of the condition and prospects of Wisconsin at that time.

"If coming events cast their shadow before, Wisconsin must needs become the "Empire State." The youngest now of the five giant off-springs of the immortal ordinance of '87, she is yet in swaddling clothes—whilst Ohio, the oldest, is now fairly decking herself in the "Toga virilla." Wisconsin, although the youngest of the "five," has given evidence by her vigerous growth, her sinewy nervous frame, and her feats of infantile prowess, of what may be expected of her adult age.

As her growth in the past has not depended upon a miracle, so her future development will result from natural causes. Other States have grown because they contained natural elements of activity and wealth. These elements exist in Wisconsin to a degree not found in any other State west or east. We have arrived at this conclusion after looking over the whole course of past increase in population and wealth in this and other States, and fearing the criticism of this opinion may be the too common expression of "humbug," or be traced to that bountiful spirit which abounds in vague generalities that proves nothing and satisfies but few, we append reasons for this opinion, and challenge the severest scrutiny. Geographical position is a most important element of growth and prosperity. Wisconsin is located between 43°50′ and 47° of north latitude. This is the northern temperate region, and is the one in which man has exhibited most energy and development. Her atmosphere is cool, clear and dry, and consequently invigorating. Billious and miasmatic affections, the scourges of Michigan, Illinois and Iowa, are unknown. Health and longevity, two most desirable blessings, are consequently attainable here. From a table of the last U. S. census, (an impartial report of course,) we obtain the following facts:

This table gives the relative health, progress, and deaths of the several States, and illustrates that the number of deaths in ratio to the number of living is—in the State of Maine, 1

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to 77; Vermont, 1 to 100; Connecticut, 1 to 64; Illinois, 1 to 73; Iowa, 1 to 94; and Wisconsin, 1 to 105; and this is not only a fair comparison with the above named States, but exhibits the least number of deaths proportionate to the population of any State in the Union. This fact, as "good wine, needs no bush."

Commercial advantages can be ascertained by simply mentioning her position. On her eastern border is Lake Michigan, on the north Lake Superior, and on these Lakes in conjunction with Lake Erie already floats a commerce, by the tabular statements of the census returns, greatly exceeding our entire foreign trade—on her west runs the Mississippi river the entire length of the State, 400 miles, connecting her with St. Louis, New Orleans and foreign nations. These facts need no comment. Her productive soil is an element of wealth not sufficiently known to be fully appreciated. Wisconsin is pre-eminently an agricultural State, and is capable of becoming as wealthy as any one of the western sisterhood. By the late census and other data, it may be safe and fair to calculate that there are about one and a half millions acres of cultivated land in the State; which, as now occupied, constitute about 50,000 farms, more or less tilled.

Besides this one and a half millions acres of improved land, there is within the area of the State above 30,000,000 acres of land, of which at least 20,000,000 is suitable to be converted into productive and pleasant farms—enough land to make two millions additional farms—waiting for occupants; and may be purchased at low prices, ranging from $1 25 to $60 00 per acre.

In regard to the value of improved lands in the new States, the same report shows that the average value is—in Illinois, $7 99; in Iowa, $6 09; in Texas, $1 09; and in Wisconsin, it is $9 48—a very fair show for a young State.

And by looking carefully through the tables, we find that average value of products per acre, exceeds that of the other States named, in about the same proportion that the land exceeds their yer acre in value. Draw a line from Manitowoc to Portage, thence directly to the Falls of St. Croix, the farming lands lying south of this line, and comprising nearly one half the State, are not equalled in all respects as farming lands in any State of the Union. North of this, a belt of

hard timber extends east and west 150 miles on the latitude of Stevens Point—from 50 to 100 miles in width. The soil of this region is fertile, and the timber its present wealth. Unlike the prairies, building material and fences are convenient, and no country produces better or more wheat. This is the staple crop, and combined with numerous streams afford the best facility for grazing. This peculiarity, (abundance of water,) pervades the entire State, and presents inducements for cattle growing not found in other prairie countries where running water is found at distances too great for cattle. The The water power on the St. Croix, Black, Chippewa, Rock, Crawfish, Wisconsin, and other rivers surrounded by these agricultural regions, and every kind of raw material, and abundant lumber—without any competition in the Mississippi valley—this water power is but partially used, but in time must be most valuable. Eastern men can appreciate this important fact, and we need not designate the points to make the water power of this State an important element of wealth and greatness.

The immense Pineries at the source of these rivers and convenient to their various falls—taken into account with the scarcity of timber in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, affords us treasures inexhaustible. They are at present demanded by these States. Most of these rivers empty into the Mississippi, and are navigable for rafts, whilst not a few are accessible at certain seasons for boats of large size.

On the southwest the country abounds in Lead, and is extensively worked; on the north, the Copper mines have challenged the interests of eastern capitalists. These mines give employment to labor and offer a home market for immense agricultural products, as well as foster manufacturing on a most extensive scale. With this—and without this advantage many of these advantages would be lost—we have a system of Railroads traversing the State and reaching the most desirable points above mentioned. Her natural scenery is equal to that of any State of the Union.

We have stated facts, and from them what are our most reasonable deductions. Is not her course in accordance with her motto, "Forward?" In 1840 Wisconsin had 80,000 inhabitants; in 1850, 305,000; in 1855, 552,000. In population she has outstripped all the western States, no one having

increased tenfold in ten years. In five years she has nearly doubled, her population having increased 247,000, while Illinois, a growing and rapidly increasing State, has added but 30 per centum to her population.

The territory of Wisconsin is larger than either New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio or Indiana. The latter, by the last census, had a population of 1,000,000, the next before, 2,000,000, the second 3,000,000, the first, in round numbers, 4,000,000. Wisconsin has a richer soil than New York, and more acres susceptible of cultivation than New York or Pennsylvania. The south east counties of Wisconsin are the only settled portions of the State, whilst the north and northwest are comparatively a wilderness. Taking the population of New York as 4,000,000 for our data of calculation, and taking into account that she has a larger proportion of sterile land than Wisconsin, and that the city and environs may be regarded as national and dependant upon position, we may safely give the rural districts 3,200,000, and, moreover, were she as densely populated as Massachusetts, she would have 6,000,000; these being the data, and Wisconsin one fourth larger, would contain 7,500,000 with the same number to the square mile. Taking the growth of Ohio and Indiana as a data for Wisconsin increase, we can safely predict in five years 800,000 inhabitants, in ten years 1,100,000, in fifteen years, 1,500,000, in twenty-five years 3,000,000, in fifty years 5,000,000. These are subjects challenging the attention and interests of all desirous of seeking a home and State with special advantages.

The advantages presented in the preceding, invite every visitor to the State, and have induced greatly the improvements we have simply glanced at. The Chairman of the Board of Trade of the Chamber of Commerce of Cincinnati, visited this State last Summer. We know the writer, and no man better qualified by travel, reading and observation to give a correct opinion than he. The following extract of a letter written during a summer's tour, will exhibit his opinion of the present, and from it we may deduce future greatness of the State.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* of the 9th of August, 1855, says:

"One peculiarity, wherever I traveled in Wisconsin, struck me forcibly, viz: the apparent high degree of culture, cleanliness and thriftiness of the farms. There is not half so much to remind one of a new country as there is in Ohio and Indiana, and this is attributable chiefly to the fact that almost every quarter section, in its natural state, is ready for plowing and fencing without the labor of felling trees enough to burden the navy of the world; and partly to the fact that the class of settlers are off-shoots from the hardy and industrious sons of New England, or the farmers of Western New York and Northern Ohio. Fifty years labor in New England, or twenty years toil in Ohio, are not equal in their results to five industrious years in Wisconsin."

Here is told in plain, simple and concise language, facts that could not be more forcibly or truthfully delineated in a column, and are the observations of a man whose opportunities and capabilities for judging are equal to any man in the Union.

The Legislature of our State have fixed the rate of interest by contract at 12 per cent, and have repealed all laws forfeiting the principal if interest beyond this sum be agreed on. Our laws now, whilst fixing the rate at 12 per cent. require a tender of the principal, before a suit can be brought to recover any excess, giving a freedom to the value of money, unknown in any other State in the Union. We doubt not this will bring the surplus capital of other States to ours, and will aid in developing our valuable resources.

In the short space which has intervened between the first settlement in this State and the present time, changes little less than miraculous, have taken place; the widespread flowergarden, whose unbroken sod was trodden only by wild beasts and the wild men of the forest, is now clothed over with one hundred thousand cultivated fields, whose harvests feed more than half a million of civilized people upon the soil, and send annually, to the less fertile east, breadstuffs to sustain a million more. Semiaries of learning and temples of worship; populous cities filled with the merchandize, wealth, and splendor of the east. Every navigable water supplied with sail and steamboats, busily employed in transporting passengers and freight to and from the various large towns and new settlements springing up in the recent wilderness.

Long trains of cars driven upon the iron track, into almost every section of the State, are finger marks of Wisconsin progress for the last twenty years. All of these improvements are the necessary implements which will be used with renewed vigor to develop the immeasurable wealth of the State, and accelerate her progress and cut short the march to her high destiny, of "the greatest State in the Union." The present wealth of Wisconsin is not a foreign importation, but an extraction from her own soil. As a general rule the settlers in Wisconsin were *poor*, but industrious, men of large hearts and aspirations, unwilling to be cramped in narrow limits, or bound by mouldy customs, who had battled with adversity and misfortune in other climes, gained self reliance in their conflicts, until the stern determination of *I will conquer*, was engraved on every muscle of the man; they come to this new region, poor in pocket, but rich in hope, ready to endure the privations and subdue the difficulties of pioneer life, and are now the genuine aristocracy of the State, surrounded with the wealth their own hands have brought into existence.

FOX RIVER AND OSHKOSH.

From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

LIGHT HOUSE, MENASHA.
From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

FOX RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

"The Fox River of Wisconsin, rising in the northern part of Columbia County, runs south-easterly to Fort Winnbego, and making a turn round the Fort, flows in a north-easterly direction into Green Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan, and is navigable from Fort Winnebago to its mouth, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles, except at certain points below Lake Winnebago, where navigation is interrupted by several ledges of rock, over which the river falls an aggregate of 160 feet in a distance of twenty miles.

"The Wisconsin river, rising near the northern boundary of the State, flows south-westerly to the Mississippi, and is now navigable for about two hundred miles, being sixty miles above Fort Winnebago. At this Fort, the Fox and Wisconsin approach to within one and a half miles of each other

with a difference in level of only four feet, with a flat prairie between them. This proximity of two navigable streams running in opposite directions through the State, afforded, at an early period, a convenient transit from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river, and attracted the attention of the Secretary of War, who, in 1838, strongly urged upon Congress to connect them by a canal, for the purpose of facilitating the transportation of troops and munitions of war destined for the western frontier of the United States. In pursuance of this recommendation, a grant of land was made in the year 1846, by Congress to the State of Wisconsin, to aid in the contemplated improvement and connection of these rivers by a canal, which grant was accepted by the State in 1847, and the work put in course of construction. But, as it appeared by the Report of the State officers in charge on the work of January 1, 1853, the improvement could not be completed from the avails of the grant of land without many years' delay, and a majority of the Legislature deeming it unconstitutional to issue State Bonds, from the sale of which to finish it, and yet acknowledging the great importance to the State of a speedy completion of the work, resolved to surrender the whole improvement, the balance of the grant of lands remaining unsold, hydraulic privileges, &c., to a company, on receiving good and sufficient guarantee that the work should be accomplished, and the parties interested as contractors or otherwise, secured from loss. A number of individuals, impressed with the vast importance of the work as a means of cheap transportation for the products and supplies of the richest agricultural, and mineral, and lumber portions of the State, and consequently as a source of immense revenue, entered into articles of association, and applied to the Legislature for an act of incorporation, in which they succeeded by obtaining an act, approved July 6th, 1853, granting to the company unlimited powers to accomplish the object in view, enabling them to purchase and sell real estate, build and carry on mills and factories, for which water is used as motive power; build boats, transport merchandise, produce, and passengers, and engage in any business which they may deem necessary in connection with the use and navigation of the two rivers to be improved.

"The design of the improvement is to enable boats to pass from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. Beginning at the

Lake, Green Bay and Fox River afford unobstructed navigation for the largest class of Lake Steamers for eighty miles, to the town of Depere, six miles above the mouth of the river. At this point rapids are encountered, with a fall of some six feet; rapids again occur at the following points: At the Croche, Grand Kaukaulin, Little Chute, Cedars, Grand Chute, and Outlet of Winnebago Lake. These rapids were to be overcome by dams, locks, and short sections of canal, after which the navigation was unobstructed to Fort Winnebago, where two locks, and a canal two miles long, were necessary to complete the improvement."

This part of the work, connecting the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers is already finished, and has been in successful operation since 1852.

"The whole length of canal necessary to secure a steamboat communication from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago, is about five miles. It is 100 feet wide on the bottom, and 120 at the top, (two feet wider than the famous Welland Canal.) The locks are 40 feet wide by 160 long, and built in the most permanent manner, of sold stone masonry, and in a style that will not suffer in comparison with any similar work in the eastern states. It is calculated, that with the improved manner of working these locks, a steamer can pass each, in the short space of three minutes. This will afford a rapid transit for the vast amount of freight that must and will seek an outlet through this thoroughfare to an eastern market. The capacity of the river for all purpose of navigation is undoubted; at no season of the year can there be any failure of wature."—*Exhibit of Fox River Improvement.*

"Twelve miles above Oshkosh, westward, is the mouth of the Wolf River, a tributary of the Fox, and navigable for steamers for one hundred and fifty miles. Forty miles above the mouth of Wolf River is the town of Berlin; sixty miles further, Portage City, and town of Fort Winnebago; above which places, for sixty miles, and below for one hundred and thirty-five miles, the Wisconsin is now navigable for steamers.

Through these, a ready connection will be secured with the Mississippi and its tributaries, and it is confidently calculated that at no distant day, steam tugs, with between 200 and 500 tons burden in tow, each, from St. Peters river—from St. Paul, and other places in that direction, will land their bur-

dens at Green Bay, to be shipped to an eastern Market. The objection to be urged to this route, from so remote locality is, that it will take too long to make the transit. To this we have to reply, that it is estimated by those who know better than we, that this great distance can and will be overcome by just these kind of crafts, in from four to six days, and by passenger boats in much less time."—*Fountain City Herald.*

"The water-powers incidentally created by the construction of this improvement will eventually prove to be one of its most productive sources of revenue, and of themselves sufficient to yield a fair per centage on the total cost of the works. The nine dams and the six miles of canal along which it is only necessary to erect bulkheads to make the powers available, will afford water sufficient to drive a large number of mills and factories, the volume discharged through the Fox River being equal to a stream 200 yards in width, 2 feet in depth, with a velocity of eight miles per hour."—*Ex. of Fox River Improvement.*

This improvement will open about 1000 miles to steam navigation, between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, including the navigable streams in the interior of northern Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

This stupendous work which is to be completed this present season (1856) in its tendency will do far more for the prosperity and advancement of the vast regions, opened to the advantages of connection with the Atlantic market, than any other improvement contemplated.

This noble enterprise is so nearly completed, June 1856, that steamers have commenced regalar daily trips from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago, and up the Fox River. The *Aquila*, built at Pittsburg, has traversed the Ohio, Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, plies between Green Bay and Berlin. Some of the locks are yet in an imperfect state, and some of canals are yet to be improved; the completion of all the parts is steadily progressing, and it is confidently believed that when the work is completed, and the business of the country, with its competition, shall be fully devloped, transportation from the ports along Winnebago Lake to Green Bay will not exceed seventy-five cents per ton, and as the Bay affords one of the safest and most commodious harbors in the world, and the only harbor on Lake Michigan, it must be a

desirable shipping place and attract much maratime business. The immense amount of available water-power on this route will undoubtedly attract the attention of capitalists and manufacturers, and as its advantages and intrinsic value are discovered and duly appreciated, Lowells and Manchesters will spring up between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, the interests and growth of which will be identified with all the widespread, fertile country through which the line of water passes. Wisconsin has many beautiful and valuable rivers, but no one which can contribute more to the wealth and convenience of the State, than the Fox and its tributaries.

Along the western boundary of the State, sweeps the father of waters, the majestic Mississippi, bearing upon its broad bosom, steam boats, schooners, flat boats and every imaginable floating craft, laden with an overflowing tide of humanity and its appendages. In this State it receives the tribute of the St. Croix, which rises in the county of Douglas and runs in a southerly direction and forms a portion of the boundary line between Minnesota and Wisconsin: its mouth is at Port Douglas. The Chippewa river rises in the county of the same name, and runs southerly through the counties of Dunn and Buffalo to the Mississippi. The valley through which it passes is eminently adapted to agriculture. The lands are not entered and are almost an entire wilderness.

Buffalo river rises in the northeasterly part of Trempeleau county and runs in a westerly direction about thirty miles, thence southwesterly about twenty-five miles and empties into the Chippewa near its entrance into the Mississippi.

The Eagle river is a small stream that rises in the interior of Buffalo county and empties into the Mississippi at Fountain City.

Trempeleau river rises in the north part of the county of the same name, runs in a southerly direction, forming the western boundary of this county, a distance of about eighteen or twenty miles from its mouth.

Black river rises in the north part of Clark county, running a meandering course in a southerly direction through Clark and Jackson counties, and forms the northwestern boundary of La Crosse county.

La Crosse river rises in the south part of Jackson county, runs in a southwesterly direction through Monroe and La-

Crosse counties and empties into the Mississippi at Prairie La Crosse.

Raccoon river rises in the southwest part of Monroe county runs in a southwesterly direction through the northwest corner of Bad Ax county, into the Mississippi.

Bad Ax river rises in the interior of Bad Ax county, and empties into the Mississippi at Battle Field.

The Wisconsin river takes its rise in the extensive swamps in the north part of the State, and runs in a southerly direction through Marathon, Portage and Adams counties, thence southeasterly into the interior of Columbia county, thence southwesterly forming a boundary between Sauk, Richland and Crawford counties, on the south, and Dane, Iowa and Grant counties on the north emptying into the Mississippi a short distance below Prairie du Chien.

Grant river rises in Grant county, and flows in a meandering course to Potosi, where it empties into the Mississippi river.

Platte river rises in Grant, near Iowa county, and winds its way to the Mississippi, near the southern boundary of the State. The tributaries to the same mighty current which flows into Illinois before finding their common level, are the Pecatonica, Sugar and Rock river, the latter of which has one of its head-springs in Fond du Lac and another in Marquette county, which pass through Horicon Lake in the county of Dodge and then through Jefferson and Rock counties and leaves the State at Beloit after furnishing the valley through which it passes with much valuable water-power. The Milwaukee river rises in the town of Eden, Fond du Lac county, passes through Ozaukee and Washington counties to the city of Milwaukee, which stands upon its banks. The Sheboygan rises but a few miles from the head of the Milwaukee and pursues its winding course to Sheboygan where it empties into Lake Michigan. Manitowoc rises in the highlands in Calumet county and passes through the county of its own name to Lake Michigan at the village of Manitowoc. The Twin rivers rise one in Brown the other in Kewaunee county, and gradually incline toward each other till they meet and embrace each other in the bosom of the Lake at the village of Two Rivers, about six miles north of Manitowoc. The Fox river takes its rise in the county of Marquette, pursues a very winding course and receives tribute from num-

erous lakes and streams before arriving at Portage, where it is connected by a canal with the Wisconsin (the head of the Fox river Improvement) runs northeasterly and receives the Wolf river at Winneconne, thence through Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, forming, for several miles below the lake the best water-power in all the western States; if not the best in the world. The Wolf river rises in the great northwestern wilderness of the State passes through the immense pineries, furnishing a highway for their transit to Winneconne, where it surrenders itself to the Fox.

There are several small rivers which rise in the interior of the northern part of the State and pass into Green Bay, among which are the Oconto, Peshlege and Menomonee. The Wolf river has also many tributary streams, among which are the Embarrass, Little Wolf, Rat and Waupacca rivers. The streams which run north and west into Lake Superior are generally short and unimportant to the interests of this work.

During the season of navigation, steamboats daily traverse many thousands of miles upon the waters of Wisconsin, and yet the increase of population and commerce demand continual increase of the various crafts which ply upon the waters of every part of the State.

The State is now much better supplied with railroad communications, according to the age of its settlement than any other State in the Union, and active and efficient means are now being employed to supply the deficiences in every section where they exist. If the same measure of prosperity which has marked the progress of Wisconsin enterprise for the last five years, should attend her energies for five years to come, the problem of her destiny would be solved in the certainty that her people possess the key to unlock those immense treasures of national wealth which constitute her the richest and most prosperous State upon the American continent.

[For much of the data in the preceding sketch, we acknowledge our indebtedness to an invaluable little work of S. Chapman, entitled the Wisconsin Hand Book. The Hand Book should be sowed broadcast over the eastern States, so that any person wishing information of Wisconsin could learn much of the real condition of any locality in an hour's time. This book is worth more than the generality of books which sell for six times its cost.]