privileges exist in the laws framed by a short-sighted past, it is time they were annulled.”* 

INCONSIDERATENESS OF EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

It is a strange and wonderful thing when we reflect upon it,—the manner in which a generation of settlers, like those who have taken possession of the goodly heritage of Wisconsin, enter upon their privilege and avail themselves of its advantages. Instead of assuming with careful deliberateness the opportunities of their goodly inheritance and, putting themselves in alliance with the generous provisions which are furnished them rather as a trust than as a conquest, they march by assault into the scenes of their chosen abode much as the army of Tamerlane or Genghis Khan put its destructive foot upon Europe and Southeastern Asia. They find a land friendly in the productiveness of its soil, a land of mountains and beautiful plains and rivers and forests and sweet lakes and brave inland seas. They do soon learn, after many rough encounters, that the soil cannot be trifled with, but, to be their friend, must be wooed into their alliance. The mountains withstand their onset,

“And their deep secrets bear and hide,  
Waiting the time  
For which God’s purposes abide,  
Still and sublime,  
Patient through restless centuries  
Knowing the calm eternities.”

They cannot conquer the sea;

"Upon the watery plain
The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth remain
A shadow of man's ravage save his own,
When in a moment, like a drop of rain,
He sinks into thy depths with bubbling groan,
Without a grave, unknelled, uncoffined, and unknown."

They cannot contrive to stay the rivers and send them back to the hills they have left behind. But the forests, the silent, princely, august, awful forests, are unable to resist them, and only late they learn that the perishing of the forests touched the heart of nature and that the avenger is at the core of their civic welfare.

THE HIGHER MINISTRY OF FORESTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE AND SPIRIT OF A PEOPLE.

I have left myself now opportunity of little more than alluding to an interest which I have only reluctantly restrained myself from making my main topic, as being almost more important than the one I have dwelt upon. Remember that, if the earth is the home of man, and Wisconsin is the home of Wisconsin men and women, its physical features, ordered as we have seen them to be for the purpose of serving their physical well-being, are even in a more remarkable manner contrived in such way as to serve directly the advantage of our higher mental and spiritual part. If the forces of nature are our servant, the forces of nature are our best teacher. If the disrobing of our watersheds and river valleys would, besides