Lac, Dodge, Dane and Rock, are the most densely populated, having an average of forty or more individuals to each square mile or section of land. The southwestern counties, as far as La Crosse, have a population of from twenty to thirty per square mile; and the portion of the state least densely populated is about one-third of the area along the northern boundary, including the counties on Lake Superior and also Burnett, Dallas, Chippewa, Marathon and Oconto.

**PRINCIPAL CITIES.**

Milwaukee, with a population in 1865 of 55,641; Fond du Lac, 11,031; Oshkosh, 9,346; Madison, the state capital, 9,191; Racine, 8,041; Janesville, 7,627; Watertown, 6,682; La Crosse, 5,097; Sheboygan, 4,189; Beloit, 4,133; Kenosha, 4,056; Prairie du Chien, 3,556; Manitowoc, 3,398; and Portage City, 3,270. Quite a number of other towns and cities have populations amounting to from 1,000 to 3,000. In these cities and larger towns and at country stores, goods of various kinds can always be purchased; a market for the products of farming and other labor found; and newspapers are printed, giving the general news of the day, and local information often of the greatest interest and importance to the citizens. Schools are established not only for teaching the elementary branches, but also the higher studies; and often colleges both for males and females. Usually there are courses of lectures during the winter season; libraries are established; and various other methods adopted for the improvement of the intelligence, taste, skill, and morals of the people. Insurance companies are organized to secure indemnity from loss of property by fire, from death, and from accidents. Banks are established to facilitate the transaction of commercial business; and agricultural societies are formed to foster and encourage the farming interest.

**HOW THE LANDS ARE SURVEYED.**

A "base line," running from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river, 143 miles, on the parallel of 42 1-2 deg. north latitude, forms the southern boundary of the state, and from which the "townships" each six miles square, are measured towards the north, and numbered; the first tier being known as township number one, the next tier, township number two, &c., up to No. 54, among the islands in Lake Superior. A "principal meridian line" is run from this base, commencing at the south east corner of Grant county, due north to Lake Superior, and the "ranges" of townships are numbered both east and west from this principal meridian. Thus every township is known by its number and the number of its range; we say of Mad-
ison that it is in township No. seven, and range No. nine east; and in this way it is easy to designate the exact position of any place in the state. These townships and ranges, with their proper numbers, are shown by the little squares on the accompanying map.

Each township is subdivided into 36 sections, one mile square, containing 640 acres of land. These are again divided into quarters (160 acres each) and designated the north-east quarter, north-west quarter, &c.; an "eighty" is an east or west half of a quarter section, and a "forty" is a quarter of a quarter; these divisions containing eighty acres, and forty acres respectively. It will be observed that all lines of the government survey run either north and south, or east and west. This very simple, easily understood and perfect system of surveying the land enables the land department of the government to show to purchasers the topographical features of each tract in detail, what lakes, rivers, springs, marshes, prairies, woodlands, &c., occur upon or near it. Hence the maps of the state may be relied upon as affording more exact details of the course of the rivers, and other geographical features, than can be expected in countries where no such surveys have been made.

LANDS.

The title of all land is derived from the general government of the United States; but large grants have been made to the state of Wisconsin, for the support of common schools, of normal schools, of a University, of an Agricultural college, and for the drainage of swamps. The lands still in the hands of the United States, may be purchased for cash, at one dollar and a quarter an acre, or may be entered without cost (except a small fee) under the homestead law. Offices for the entry of government land are open at Menasha, Stevens' Point, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Falls of the St. Croix, and at Bayfield. Lands belonging to the state may be purchased at Madison, at prices varying from three-fourths of a dollar to two and a half dollars an acre; usually one-fourth only of the purchase money is required to be paid in hand, the remainder on a long credit, with interest at seven per centum per annum.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW.

By this very liberal act of the Congress of the United States, the unsold public lands are offered, almost without price to any citizen, or person who has declared his intention to become a citizen. The payment of ten dollars, and a small fee to the register and receiver of the land office, where the entry is made, secures to any single person twenty-one years of age, or the head of a family, 160