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Bowdoin Prize Dissertation, 1850 1st. Prize.

By Horatio R. Storer,

senior Class[**Above in different pen, perhaps other handwriting than HRS's**]

An English Dissertation.

The

'History and Resources

of the

Valley of the Mississippi.'

By a member of the Senior Class.

The 'History and Resources of the Valley of the Mississippi.'

Viewed in its most general aspect, the continent of North America is divided by ranges of mountains into three great parallel plains - varying however in a striking degree with respect to size. Two of them are situated on the shore of opposite oceans - and these are of but little breadth when compared with the third, embracing as that does the larger part of the continent. This central plain is bounded on either side by the Rocky Mts. and the Atlantic system, and extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic sea. Traversed here and there by hilly ridges of insignificant extent and elevation, for the most part an almost unbroken level, it presented the unexampled instance of a country, whose limits are definitely fixed by Nature, and which yet possesses within itself inexhaustible resources of every kind. Stretching well nigh from the equator to the pole, it comprehends the whole range of climate - its southern borders clad in the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics, give place in turn to the sober yet cheerful foliage of more temperate regions - which, gradually dwindling into a gloomy and desolate wilderness, finally expires in sterile lichens, the food of the musk ox and caribou.

This vast central plain, whose area is no less than 3,250,000 square miles, has been called from its two chief rivers, the valley of the Mississippi-Mackenzie; although it is watered also by the St. Lawrence, Saskatchewan and Nelson - streams in themselves mighty, but relatively considered mere brooks. Of the southern half only of this plain do we now profess to treat - for as yet[!] this alone is comprised within the limits of the United States. The southern and doubtless by far the most valuable portion - this it is that is known through the world as the valley of the Mississippi. Its boundaries are clearly enough defined on every side save the North - and even here the Red river of Lake Winnipeg and the western feeders of the great lakes serve to show where another basin begins to encroach upon this. The great river as has already been implied, drains a wide domain - receiving a thousand tributaries - fitly called

the 'Father of Waters'. Its trunk measures in its windings fully 3200 miles - finding its source in the little lake Itasca or La Biche in about 47° N. lat., whilst it reaches the Gulf in 29° - having traversed about 18 degrees. It has been denied by many that the main stream should be called the Mississippi and with some little show of reason on the ground that its twin brother, the Missouri, that wilder, swifter, more turbulent and withal longer torrent gives its peculiar character to the river below its junction. This, however plausible, may I think be rebutted on at least as good grounds - namely, that the conformation of the valley itself corresponds to the direction of the Mississippi - plainly showing that in so far as its formation has been owing to fluvial action, we have here the agent.

In no manner perhaps can a better idea of this great river, so necessary for our future inquiries, be attained than by comparing it with its fellow, the St. Lawrence - a comparison the more apt that they really rise side by side. We shall be forcibly struck by their dissimilarity in every important respect. Flowing in opposite directions, the one finds itself rising almost in nothingness and gradually increasing. The other has its fountain head in Lake Superior, the largest collection of fresh water on the earth, and not until after passing through that great chain of lakes, does it assume its ultimate form of river; the one receives many tributaries, some indeed nearly as large as itself - the other is comparatively alone, depending as it were upon its own resources; The one, after a slight leap, rolls on over its muddy bed in almost uninterrupted course. The other plunges over the falls of Niagara and wears for itself a channel in the solid rock; the one at regular seasons overflows its banks with inundation. The other is ever the same; the one, deep and boiling, undergoes a change near its mouth, instead of receiving, as at first, the waters of inferior streams and incorporating them with itself, it now sends forth numerous branches from its own abundance, which, forming large and navigable rivers, slowly wend their way seaward, where they are met by a wall of sand, raised as if to bar their further progress. While the St. Lawrence spreads itself out gradually into a noble gulf. And lastly, the Mississippi has unlike the other, its delta, which it may be interesting here to consider somewhat at length.

Ages ago it was known that in many countries extensive tracts of land had been formed by the action of rivers, but it has been reserved for modern science to investigate that action, to discover its laws, and reasoning therefrom, to penetrate deeply and successfully into the mysteries of former geological epochs. Though the action now referred to is, under various aspects, to be traced throughout the entire course of certain rivers, it is exhibited most strikingly at their mouths, and to these points consequently has the attention of scientific men been chiefly directed, finding here phenomena which present phases almost as distinctly marked as those of the development of an organized being. It is said that river deltas in their different forms seem to be only varieties of one and the same fundamental type - plainly visible even in the artificial structures of human industry. By a careful study of their physical character results highly interesting have been arrived at, often showing unlooked for similarities. The delta in which we are most deeply interested, that of the Mississippi, has been by a happy coincidence more thoroughly examined perhaps than any other; and has been aptly compared by Elie de Beaumont, a geologist of repute, to the great alluvial offspring of the Nile.

In his estimation, the main stream of the Mississippi corresponds in the Egyptian delta to the Rosetta branch; the Iberville which traverses Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain represent the Canopic branch of the Nile, now obliterated, by whose ancient bed Lake Madich was separated from lake Etoko - whilst the

Fourche supplies the place of the Damietta branch and the Atchafalaya that of the old Pelusiae. But in none of the mouths of the Nile do we find such a proportion to any of the others as the principal stream of the Mississippi bears to the bayous or creeks, its minor outlets. The 'Anse aux huitres' and other lagoons which extend towards Texas may be compared to those between Pelusium and El Arish. Lake Menzaleh is imperfectly figured by the Lake of Chetimaches; whilst in the port of Baratasia we have Lake Bourlos of the Nile delta and, to go elsewhere, in the e'tang de valcares' that of the Rhone. Finally the Atchafalaya is to the Miss. nearly what the Adige is to the Po. With equal justness and success might our comparison have been extended to the Ganges or the Rhine.

Notwithstanding the great mean annual prolongation of the delta, - 1150 feet an extent five times as great as that of the Po.- it is confidently affirmed by philosophers that there is no evidence of permanent solidity in this mass of debris; but on the contrary, that from the shifting nature of the channels, there are not only no grounds for the formation of any new geological theory, but even great danger of a grand cave-in at some future day - and occurrence that might be hastened by the operation of a canal across 'the isthmus', thereby perhaps altering somewhat the course of the Gulf Stream or occasioning another and conflicting current. The shifting nature of the delta at present has give rise to strange phenomena - observations on many of which have been made and carefully preserved. From these it also appears that at times there is manifested a prodigious elevatory force in the vicinity of the sand bars - differing in some respects from the earthquakes of the upper country - and doubtless accompanied by some sensible depression elsewhere, as in the well known case of Sweden and Norway - a phenomenon of such interest that of late a project has been broached to precisely ascertain the present high water mark of the different coasts of our continent, to furnish data for observations of this nature in years to come. In this connection it may be well to remark that there is as little probability of the upper countries' ever being demolished to their base and carried off by the waters as of the Gulf basin ever becoming filled in, even in the most distant futurity.

But it is not at its mouth alone that the flood deposits its spoils. When the spring sun has loosed from the hills their icy fetters, then a troubled sea, swollen by the tribute of a thousand streams, surging and roaring hoarsely onwards, it overtops its banks and widely inundates the country. Now finding time to rest in its course, it furtherwith begins to lay down its earthy burden, of necessity, inasmuch as this deposition commences the moment the waters recede from the swiftly flowing current, it is most copious on the river banks - here the coarser materials immediately fall, losing the onward force alone sufficient to keep them in suspension - whilst the less palpable matter, a much thinner stratum, is content with a place in the rear. Thus simply are explained the more elevated river banks and their neighboring swamps.

The alluvial soils, which from time immemorial have been orderly arranging themselves in the manner through so large a part of the valley, occupy a place in the economy of nature by no means so unimportant as might at first be supposed - by their agency a great part of that amazing fertility so characteristic of the West is occasioned, and that too through a means but lately understood and withal so curious that I cannot refrain from alluding to it here. It has long been known that the fertility of many soils depended entirely upon the relative percentage of decomposing organic matter contained therein - whilst in others, their quality was regulated to a great extent by the quantity of mineral constituents;

these two theorems, if such we may call them, were until recently all that the farmer could look to for the explanation of any knotty question of this sort - rather meagre data for the solution of the great alluvial problem. When however the microscope had disclosed the worlds of aquatic animalcules, the mystery became clear - as the floods subside and evaporation begins, these Lilliputians become more crowded together and finally die, falling into their graves, there to rot, and to form manure most rich, most efficacious. This accounts satisfactorily for the fertility of the alluvial or 'bottom' lands as they are called - that of other regions in the valley will be more properly discussed in another place.

In the whole the physical aspect of the valley is such as in no other part of the world could be found but by compounding different, and in many cases distant, countries together. Its extent and situation with its peculiar geological systems continue to vary the surface, whilst the climate, the diversity of soil, clothe it in vesture of many colors. Were I to indulge my pen in local descriptions, incomplete though they were, of the many scenes of beauty from marshy everglade to wide rolling prairie, I should be thought fulsome if not worse. Therefore in self-defence, I shall leave the poetical portio of its history to Virgil, who seems certainly to have enjoyed a trip down the river, when he says-

'Hic ver purpureum; varios hic flumina circum Fundit humus flores; his candida populus antro Imminet, et lentae texunt unbracula vites'.

Or as Barlow in his 'Columbiad' hath it -

'Here in one view, the same glad branches bring

The fruits of Autumn and the flowers of Spring.'

Of the History of the Miss. valley prior to its discovery by the White Man we know but little. That it has been the seat of strange commotions in former geological epochs we have certain proof. That it is to be the seat of as great changes in time to come is no less certain. The constant though slow progression eastward of the river's bed, caused by the forcible incoming of so many streams upon the opposite side is one of that series of stupendous phenomena now going on, of which the retrogression of the falls of Niagara, so as hereafter to influence the basis of the great lakes is another familiar instance.

Though our data be few and scattered we have yet been able to ascertain much of interest concerning that olden time before the introduction of Man upon the earth. We find in the different strata their peculiar fossils, now so many intelligible witnesses to us of the past - among them those gigantic bones, which have both puzzled the ignorant and delighted the wise - which needed no empty "Hydrarchos" to gain them credence. But the Mammoth and the Megatherium with their host of monstrous congeners(?) have all passed away, save perhaps only the colossal *Platysotra* or 'Shovel fish' of the western waters and the Ichthyosaurian Sea Serpent - fit representations of an antediluvian world.

Notwithstanding that our knowledge of the most remote periods is thus comparatively certain, we are altogether in the dark concerning much later times. Throughout the West there is incontestible evidence of a population prior to the existence there of the modern Indians - and probably this departed people were the true aborigines. Of them we know but little - and of this most may be said to be mere

conjecture - although many learned essays have been written concerning them, founded on most careful research. Yet some conclusions have been arrived at, that seem well based.

They were an ancient race - for since their time another 'terrace' has been added from the river beds to the three then existing - and upon their graves trees have flourished for centuries, have fallen and given place to others which have lived equally long - as is proved to us by their circle-crowded trunks.

They were a wide spread race - for they had with them native copper from the shores perhaps of Lake Superior, mica from the Alleghanies, marine shells from the Gulf and obsidian, if not porphyry, from Mexico.

There were a numerous race - for otherwise the many and vast works in the west, 'embossed illustrations' of their history, could not have been erected. They had but few artificial aids, and these necessarily imperfect - mere wood, stone and copper; yet with them and their bare hands, they excavated and collected together material, of which the 20,000 cubic feet contained in the mound at Cahokia is but an almost infinitely small part.

They were an agricultural race - for otherwise so large a population could not have been maintained - nor could labor to such an immense extent have been applied to purposes entirely unproductive of return - moreover, they were chiefly settled in the fertile alluvions of the rivers, lakes and gulf - the places best adapted of all to profitable tillage.

And they were a religious race - governed by well defined and stringent laws. Worshippers of the Sun, a people skilful and mighty, gone forever have they all with the mastodon, their venerable predecessor - and their mounds, like the ruined temples and broken marbles of Mexico and Hindostan, alone remain to tell their story.

Soon after the discovery of the continent, it appears that the Spanish began those settlements in the Floridas which they maintained for so many years - and it is accordingly in these early days that the history, properly so called, of the West began - in times previous to the almost simultaneous colonizations by the English and French in the North. The Spanish were for many years alone - for though some French Huguenots had made an attempt to plant a colony in their vicinity, it had been unsuccessful - themselves had all been massacred 'as heretics, enemies of God and the Virgin.' The records of these times, and indeed until long after the Northern settlements had been effected, were scanty and full of uncertainty - existing, if at all, but in the libraries of foreign lands, there to remain until these latter days; for hitherto Americans, with but few exceptions, have had no time for antiquarian research - and those few taking interest only in the history of a limited district, their abode perhaps or native place.

As might be supposed, a close juxtaposition of the colonies of three nations, never celebrated for remarkable friendship towards each other, would have no tendency towards future peace or the preservation of ultimate liberty to each and all. Subsequent facts as is well known did not belie this theory - yet there they were at the beginning of the 17th century - Spanish, English, French - and withal next door neighbors.

Thus far may be considered to have extended the Spanish epoch - that of discovery. The valley's history from this time downwards has been divided, and with great propriety, into three other distinct periods - of which the first embraces from the planting of the Canadian colonies in 1608 to 1760, the whole period of the French dominion; the second from 1760, the date of its surrender to England, down to 1783, the close of the American Revolution - and the third, thence to the present time.

The history of the first or French Epoch, that of romance as it has been called, is involved in almost as much obscurity as that of its precursor. The journals of French missionaries and travellers, and our own colonial records and traditions contain its little all, embellished and exaggerated, by Gallic enthusiasm in raptures over the peculiarity fertility and grandeur of the West - clipped and curtailed to suit the Puritan's narrow bigotry and interwoven with superstition by the wily Jesuit.

At this time the Mississippi was still embosomed in one vast wilderness, whose silence was unbroken save by roaring torrents or beast of prey. The Red Men were its only inhabitants - roaming about on hunting or predatory excursions - their tribes hostile to each other - themselves barbarians. De Soto had crossed the river long before its alleged discovery by the Frenchmen Marguette and Joliet in 1673. But to them and La Salle belong the honor of having explored it to its source. La Salle, whose statue in the Capitol proclaims him the Columbus of the West, was indeed no ordinary man. It was to him that Father Hennepin alluded, when he remarked 'that those who shall be so happy as to inhabit this noble country, cannot but remember with gratitude those who led the way.' But this tells of his patience alone - not of his vigorous mind - for it was he who first devised the mighty plan, that carried out was to change the destinies of this country and of the world; a plan, whose immediate objects were defence against the Indians, to guard and extend the fur trade, already important, and last but greatest to him in the English. The Canadian colonies were now firmly grounded and their influence was steadily and rapidly extending. They had as it were obtained indisputable possession of the great lakes - the savages had been mostly won over to their interest and were ready to assist in any project for the aggrandizement of their friends. And La Salle comprehended what this project must be. He saw that chance had put the great highway from the Gulf of St Lawrence to that of Mexico under their control - part of this had already been fortified - complete but the line of posts to the mouth of the Miss. and America was theirs. But, as is often the case, he did not live to see his conception realized - being most foully murdered whilst endeavoring to plant the Southern colony, so necessary for success.

That the French designed settling on the Gulf coast was now evident to the Spaniards in Florida; and to be prepared against any future attempt, which might perhaps result better than this had done, they forthwith laid the foundations of Pensacola - a place admirably adapted for a frontier post. Well for them was it that they did so - as they found, when in 1698 an armament appeared in their bay, sent out by the French government of the purpose of carrying into effect the suggestions of LaSalle. Having been thus anticipated, it had no alternative but to proceed farther westward - as it did - to Biloxi. And even in this quarter they came very near arriving too late - for their leader, Bienville, whilst paddling about one day upon the Miss. in the hope of making some interesting discovery, came suddenly upon an English expedition that was seeking a fit place for a colony; and had not the artful Frenchman succeeded in deceiving them with regard to their situation, he would have been anticipated here also. Once settled at the mouth of the river and communication was soon opened with his Canadian brethren - the

neighboring regions were thoroughly explored - and though but few mines, the principal objects of search, were found, great topographical knowledge was hereby gained.

Up to this time the colonies had been fully occupied in their own concerns - they had had no leisure for troubling each other - and the only approach to pugnacity had been that of the French, when they erected a fort on Mobile river. Each had however meanwhile been growing stronger and more prosperous - so that in 1702, when the war broke out between France, aided by Spain, and England, they were all ready to follow the example of their mother countries and to commence open hostilities. Now too began the first Indian troubles of any moment in the West - the various tribes, espousing the causes of their fancied friends, warred not only upon the Whites but upon each other - sometimes even to extermination, as in the subsequent case of the ill fated Natchez. Strange as it may seem, we find the mutual hatred that the French and Spanish bore the English here conquering all feelings of jealous rivalry and inducing a temporary league of offence and defence - which continued with but little intermission until 1719, when news came that France had at last declared war with Spain. Forthwith Pensacola was invested by sea and by land, and as it could do no better it surrendered - to be instantly lost again and as soon recaptured. In these difficulties treachery seems to have been constantly employed by both parties - though perhaps by the Spanish with most success; yet even they were sometimes outwitted - certainly at least in their attempt to gain a foothold in what is now Missouri, as they had done in Texas - none escaping with life, save some equestrian priests.

Louisiana, including, as it then did, the whole valley of the Miss., felt sorely the want of an agricultural as well as a commercial depot. With equal judgment and foresight the site of the present New Orleans was selected for this, combining in its situation all that was or could have been desired. Yet though requisite impulse was now given to enterprise, though the colonists devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits, though their numbers increased though everything seemed to prosper, it was still a heavy tax to the home government. The capitalist who had obtained the farming of the revenues did not receive so great an income as he had hoped - and accordingly the whole region was transferred to the Miss. Company - that famous bubble, which upon bursting, scattered \$310,000,000 to the winds and spread ruin throughout France, the people at least if not the government's knavish clique. Yet bubble of wrath though it were, it ultimately benefitted greatly the colony and hastened civilization by starving the inhabitants to migrate from the crowded city to remote, distant parts of the valley - there to settle with their slaves. For Slavery even in those early days had begun to weave its network of guilt about the South, that has not yet been torn off - God grant it soon may be, though not in blood.[!] The Spanish introduced the custom, the French received it from them to transmit it to the Americans - and shame belongs to them all. Indians were the first victims - but for them were substituted Africans, as of greater degradation. 'Las Casas preached humanity to the Indians; and the fetters were knocked off from one race only to be rivetted upon another.'

And now approached the troublous times - of war - of battle - of defeat. The origin of the contention between France and England was the difficulty of settling the boundaries of their respective claims in America. For the English asserted their right to all the territory from the Atlantic to the St. Lawrence, whilst the French claimed the whole valley of the Miss. Jealousies, encroachments, mutual collisions could but ensue, accompanied by Indian intrigues and bribery - followed of course by war. The French

had nearly completed their grand line of military posts from Louisburg and Quebec along the St. Lawrence - from Lake Ontario down the Ohio and Miss. to New Orleans; the water communication from Canada to Louisiana was in their hands - their operations thus far had been excused as necessary for peaceful intercourse between the distant parts of their colonies. They had but to gain possession of the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela, without which their success was incomplete.

But in so doing they came into collision with the Fur Company of Ohio, who resented most vehemently their aggressions. The English, hitherto napping, were now abruptly awakened and determined in 1754 to expel the French from the West. Their first essay was unsuccessful and their antagonists hastily put themselves in readiness for defence. Braddock was still more unfortunate than Washington had been, being slain. But Pitt had now been placed at the head of affairs, the British lion in its rage began to roar, and soon vanquished its foe upon the plains of Abraham. In that last final battle was crushed forever the power of the French in America; Canada and the upper Miss. valley were surrendered, and even before the treaty of peace with England was signed in 1763, Louisiana had been ceded to Spain.

Thus for the Gauls - now comes the second, the English epoch - that of wars; of which hitherto there had been but few, and those of but little consequence - chiefly the transient inroads of the savages against the English, the French and each other. Upon the cession of Louisiana to Spain, the inhabitants refused their assent to or acknowledgment of any such transfer, openly rebelled and were reduced to submission only by the stringent measures of their brutal governor. Thus forced under the Spanish yoke, they saw fit to make the best of it - and for a time enjoyed comparative peace.

Whilst on the northern frontier all was in confusion. The English could not control the Indians as easily as the Spaniards had the French, and at first effected but little; for the savages, early taught to hate them and seeing that now was the time for their extermination if ever, listened with delight to the deep laid plans of Pontiac and formed themselves into a confederation, even to the most remote tribes, against the Whites. They struck their blow in 1763 - they carried Michilimackinac and the whole Northwestern frontier by storm, and left all around dire examples of their vengeance. With difficulty were they suppressed - and scarcely had the English begun to extend the old French fur trade under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies, when news was brought that the Atlantic colonies, smarting under a sense of injustice and wrong had begun a revolution. Like wildfire ran the tidings. The Eastern magicians had done well - and their words of power "Liberty or death" had been spoken in the West and in the South.

Up rose Louisiana, and, French still at heart, though Spanish in name, hating the English as of old and burning to efface the stains left by the loss of Canada on the one hand and of the Floridas on the other, it heartily responded the good cause; its promptness and decision were rewarded forthwith by the recapture of its dearly beloved neighbor, Florida. And uprose too the Indians, to awake again all the horrors of border warfare - thirsting for blood, longing for scalps, they readily bargained with English ruffians, and thus procured employers and leaders. Making Canada their headquarters, they issued forth continually to ravage the American frontiers, falling back for arms and refuge in case of need upon the ancient French settlements upon the Illinois. These trespasses Virginia, as landlord, could not and would not permit; the necessary steps were taken - Kaskaskia, Vincennes and the rest were captured. The

desired effect followed, and the barbarian hordes from the North which had poured down the valley, as had their brethren of old upon the plains of Italy, cowed by a few practical lessons from Clark like that in 1780 'l'annee du coup', found it for their interest to desist from hostilities. The hopes of the English in reviving and extending the old French line of strongholds were frustrated - and themselves at last compelled to surrender and evacuate the Western territory, according to the treaty of 1783 - reduced to as poor a plight as had been the French - shorn of all their American possessions save Canada - conquered and in disgrace. Their flag had been struck, and there was now good reason to hope that troubles were in truth over.

We now enter upon the last scenes of our history, and for that very reason by far the most exciting and interesting. They may be considered as forming the American epoch - that of progress. Upon the declaration of peace, emigrants from every quarter poured westward and settled themselves in troops upon the fertile bottoms: Strange as it may perhaps seem, so great an influx of population soon caused trouble. The terms of the treaty between England and the United States had not been clear enough upon one point - with regard to the ownership of the Miss. or at least of its navigation. This the Americans claimed as a right - and of course Spain contested their claim most pertinaciously, for it was to her of vital importance to defend her colonies from all exposure to free and republican principles, whose tendency could be but to subvert her power; her rebutting claim was grounded upon the cession to her of Louisiana and necessarily thereby of the exclusive navigation of the lower Miss., by France and England. On the other hand upon their obtaining this right depended the prosperity or ruin of the West. Its population was already great; Kentucky alone numbering over 12,000 citizens - and they were but a part. For no sooner had Congress by the generosity of the several proprietary states, assigned definite limits to the North western territories in the ordinance of 1787; which ensured as it were security of life and property to the settlers, than they came by thousands. States began to be established upon the Miss. and its tributaries, to whose progress the want of a ready communication with the sea became a serious obstacle. Large quantities of surplus produce accumulated in their barns, there to rot for want of a market. For the Atlantic states were distant from them and were rendered almost inaccessible by the intervention of a great wilderness and a chain of stupendous mountains. There was one outlet for their produce furnished them by nature - the Miss. - but from which they were now vigorously 'recluded' by the Spaniards. Driven as they thus were in self defence to act, Kentucky petitioned Congress for redress of grievances; remonstrances were sent to the Spanish government, though with but little effect. They were the repeated and in a tone that Spain, conscious of her weakness dared not resist - so that by treaty she ceded in 1795 the free navigation of the river to America. But being it would seem naturally of a treacherous disposition, she so long deferred keeping her faith that President Adams, justly enraged, made ready to descend suddenly upon her territory and take New Orleans by storm. This project however, although it was favored by British gold and French intrigue, was defeated by the accession of Mr Jefferson to the presidency - and in 1804, Louisiana, having been previously ceded by Spain to the French Republic, came by purchase into the power of the United States; yet not until after the ambitious scheme of the First Consul to conquer America by means of the foothold now gained there had been crushed by the blockade of Holland.

America could never have been satisfied or prospered without Louisiana and the entire command of the river; they were absolutely necessary to her welfare as a nation. And though Spain would not admit the justice of our claim at first, she would eventually have been compelled so to do, had she not ceded the region to France. For our exercise of her so-called indulgence would have been a never ending source of perplexities and disputes; and these, though adjusted for a time, would have terminated at length in war - the issue of which would not have been doubtful. By fraud or violence therefore, as indeed had been wished, by policy or by the sword, it must sooner or later have been ours.

As soon as the cession and purchase were carried into effect, government began to prosecute the advantages of our new acquisition with all its characteristic vigor - sending out those well conducted exploring expeditions to the Rocky Mts. and source of the Missouri - and encouraging emigration already so extensive.

Though the valley was now nominally free, it was however not yet so in fact. The British still treacherously held some of their old trading posts within our territories, whence their savage dependents issued upon the settlements to tomahawk, scalp and destroy. For eight long years they continued the conflict, with their characteristic cruelty and obstinate resolution - massacring, or carrying into captivity worse than death, thousands before the treaty of Greenville and peace were conquered by Gen. Wayne.

Truly these were troublous times. Hardly were the Indians subdued when civil discord threatened to cast all into confusion once more. Certain malcontents of Pittsburgh and the Monongahela regions there about, excited an insurrection - known ever since as the 'Whiskey War' - which was ultimately quelled without bloodshed, though for a time, like Shay's rebellion, it greatly endangered the Constitution.

During the twenty years immediately preceding 1810, the people of the west had increased eight fold, now numbering a million; and in consequence of certain cessions made by North Carolina, the territory south of the Ohio had been duly organized as such by Congress, and then in states admitted to the Union. Meanwhile nothing of remarkable interest had occurred among them, saving the attempted treason of Aaron Burr - whose character has so well been exposed. The following year, 1811, was a time fraught with much of weal and wo to the country - on the one hand the introduction of steam upon the western waters - on the other the bursting forth of another most terrible Indian war. Following the example of Pontiac, whom we have before alluded to, the renowned Tecumseh and his brother 'the Shawnese prophet', by advice of the English, convoked the lake tribes against the Americans - whom they were pleased to represent as so many devils, sprung from "the scum of the great water with it was troubled by the evil spirit, and it froth was driven into the woods by a strong east wind."

The ineffectual attempt made to avert this impending storm, but determined the savages the more to take an active part in the war of 1812, as they most certainly did. The disasters that at first befell the Americans at Michilimackinac, Chicago and Detroit, accompanied as they were by that shameful, infamous surrender by Hull, were full of ill omen. The tidings were quickly carried by Indian runners to the Creeks and Seminoles of the South; and soon the whole frontier was in arms - supplied by Great

Britain and Spain. For a time the issue seemed doubtful - and had it not been for the brave perseverance of Jackson and Harrison, in the face of difficulties aptly compared to those encountered by Washington himself, the victory of the gallant Perry on Lake Erie would have been to us of but little avail. The battles at Tippecanoe and the Hickory Grounds put an effectual check upon the pugnacity of the Redskins - and justly carried for their respective heroes titles no less honorable than of old was that of Africanus to Scipio. Massacres had been perpetrated at Fort Mimms and elsewhere that fairly outdid even Indian barbarity; deeds of valor, rivalling the vaunted prowess of the Crusades had been performed again and again - and though the question as to who killed Tecumseh has never been settled so explicitly as might be desired, yet enough remains for the admiration and praise of Mankind.

As soon as the Indians were completely subdued, it became possible to give undivided attention to the British - for all danger of another confederation among the tribes was prevented by the purchase of those intermediate territories, through which the war sticks were wont to be carried. The next step to be taken was of course to expel the British from the South and to chastise the Spaniards who had harbored them - this could be done but by the capture of Pensacola - and accordingly, though without any other authority than urgent necessity, Gen. Jackson determined to take it by storm. Thus much having been accomplished, it remained to defend the coast against all invasion by the enemy - who, there was every reason to believe, would shortly invest New Orleans. When that enemy did come, our countrymen were true to their watch-word - then as ever 'liberty or death.' Almost the forlorn hope, ensconced amid their cotton bales they fought with unexampled bravery, for their country and their homes, against those who would rob them of both. Their all was a stake and they won - repelling the foe in utter discomfiture and defeat. But 4,000, all told, and unaccustomed as they were to the manoeuvres and tactics in which their adversaries excelled, they yet routed a force more than thrice their own - and have left it to posterity to remember with gratitude the battle of New Orleans.

And now that the war was indeed over, prosperity began to return. Streams of emigrants once more poured forth into their former channels - their numbers greatly increased by the construction of a road across the Alleghanies, and of the famous Erie Canal. Villages and towns and territories and states sprang up with unexampled rapidity - hastened doubtless in their onward course by the mania for speculation then and there so extensively prevailing - whose shadow only have we seen in the Eastern land fever of later days. Though by its means was wrought the ruin of many an enthusiast, it was yet like the old Miss. scheme productive of great benefit to the country - by introducing the proper class of settlers. The worthless paper currency consequent upon the breaking of so many banks, and the as worthless 'relief laws' created for the time an apparent stagnation, it is true - but it proved only transient - affairs soon went on better than ever and have continued improving thenceforth until the present day - interrupted, nay even threatened, by nothing save the trifling difficulties with the Seminoles of Florida. We might perhaps, geologically defining our limits, include also the late Mexican War - but we shall not - even were it for no other reason than that it would be for the interest and credit of our country always to pass that over as now, in silence. [!]

In reviewing even thus hastily the history of the west, we are forcibly impressed by the all powerful influence of the character of its inhabitants upon the condition of a country. In the earliest times of the Spanish dominion, America was not only the pathless wilderness they found it, but it remained so - they

cared for nought but gold - like their descendants the pirates of the Mexican Gulf, to whom the Florida Keys and Louisianian bayous so long offered secure retreats. The French as masters were but little better - their own character and that of their laws were for progress equally unfitted - so that the natural advantages of the soil were to them of none effect; themselves were ignorant, servile and immoral - their government based upon the old Feudal System. To these causes should be added the policy of the fur trade - for whose interest at all times and in all places it has necessarily been, to retard, to keep off civilization. Accordingly no schools were established - and the Jesuits were not only the agents of the Church but of the State, which in fact monopolized all traffic. Built on so weak a foundation as this - so different from that of the colonies of 'conscience' in New England - it was but natural that the French settlements should have been broken up and have left behind them but few traces of their existence.

On the other hand, it is well known that, upon the West coming into possession of the English, though even then it was but little bettered at the time, these were at least signs of improvement in the settlements already existing. Had the country remained long in their power, it would probably have slowly been turned to account - and rendered like unto other British colonies or conquests all over the world. But this was not to be the case, and because of their own fault. For at the time of the cession by France of her American possessions east of the Miss, the Atlantic colonists were in a very peculiar state of mind; they were now relieved from the many agitations and embarrassments they had hitherto endured - their tranquility was not restored. For all this, secured to them by the treaty of 1763, they were duly grateful - and had England taken advantage of this happy moment, she might have gained perhaps forever their loyalty and allegiance. But the war just ended had been a costly one to Britain and she had now to keep a standing army upon the frontier - to defray these expenses the 'revenue acts' were passed - no longer borne in silence as had been the 'navigation' laws - the 'stamp act' followed - and then the revolution.

The country was now free - and it prospered accordingly. The French government had been too despotic - The English though less, still too much so - but the American has proved all that could have been desired. The defects of the original Federal Constitution have been obviated - and from its ruins has spring another - that experience shows to be almost perfection. Under its influence peace has been maintained, both at home and abroad - the Union thus far preserved - and the West, whilst receiving its crowded population, is disclosing and developing those bountiful resources - to the consideration of which we are now about to turn our attention.

It has been said that the Anglo-Americans as a nation excel all others in their love of work - active, hard work - in the pleasure they take in the contemplation and accomplishing thereof. In this national trait therefore is probably to be found an explanation of the alacrity with which we turn to this second great division of our subject - the Resources of the Valley. They and with a slight reservation, they alone have determined and will determine the measure of its prosperity.

In Europe and throughout the old world, a state or a country can increase its wealth or aggrandize itself but at the expense of another - and this but by war and conquest. Not so however with America - she has all the elements of greatness within herself: and is consequently neither compelled not tempted to

trouble others and extort from them unwilling obedience. The conquests need be but over herself - over Nature - by rendering the powers of both soil and elements subservient to her will; and of late years she has prosecuted the warfare with extraordinary diligence and success.

As the West was indebted to Agriculture for the beginning of her prosperity, and as by it are produced at least three quarters of the exports of the United States, let us give that our first attention. For culture the valley is eminently adapted and for manifold reasons - a few of which we may hastily glance at ere considering the great agricultural staples. The soil is of every quality, and thus fitted for far differing crops which depend so much on its chemical composition, and of every degree of fertility - rendered so in some cases, as already remarked, by the alluvial deposits of the rivers - in others by the abundance of marl beds - and still again, by the successive strata of decayed vegetable matter that have been accumulating for centuries. Moreover the intricate network of rivers, answering so well to the arterial and venous systems of the human body, secure through irrigation on the one hand and through drainage on the other. Whilst the valley enjoys the whole range of climate - and is thus fitted for producing in their utmost perfection alike the plants of temperate and of tropical regions.

The prairies of the West, so dear to the hunter in days of yore - that golden age of the American Nimrod - are well qualified for the raising of stock; to emigrants from the East, these grassy seas appear in truth as the promised land of plenty. Their extent almost illimitable, their fertility almost inexhaustible, furnish pasture land that can never be surpassed. But they are not fitted for pasturage alone; in the North they are adapted, equally with the reclaimed forest, for tillage - and furnish abundant crops in due season of every useful fruit and grain. Here Pomona and Ceres reign together - in a kingdom of laden boughs and waving fields.

Though the alluvial bottom land be not so well fitted for its cultivation as for that of maize, giving it too rank a growth, yet the uplands produce immense crops of wheat - which is undoubtedly the staple of the North West; none disputing its claim unless it be Pork, which having grown fat on the mast of the forests, undergoes its final metamorphosis for the good of the nation in the shambles of Cincinnati - and to such an extent, that they reckon their gruntern by millions, and successfully pit their oil against that of Arctic Leviathan.

The western wheat suffices not only for home consumption but is already exported to a great extent - chiefly as flour; justly earning for its states the honorable name that Sicily and Africa bore of old - the granary of the world. Without bread we should be poor indeed - and we may well then be thankful that a kind Providence has secured to us such bountiful harvests, from whose abundance in time of need we can dispense, as has already been done, to a starving nation across the sea.

The crops of Canada and the Eastern states have of late suffered much from the devastations of the Hessian fly - this has however I believe not yet reached the West in its tardy flight, and there is reason to hope that it may be prevented from so doing either by some natural agency or by the discoveries of scientific men. It is now confidently expected that the newly proposed process of treating potatoes by sulphurous acid will effect a radical cure in that formidable rot - whose nature, whether caused by fungi or animal parasites, is thus far unknown; and again Science has disclosed a preventive against ergot in

rye and other grains - as indeed also in the various grasses. These facts and many like them give us certainly some grounds to hope for the preservation of wheat to the West.

That was the Northern staple - that of the South is Cotton - of whose American history a few statistics will give the best idea. Though well known of old and though there is every reason to believe that it was indigenous to America as well as to India, it was not until long after the settlement of the colonies that its growth began. South Carolina and Georgia then took the lead - but previous to the war of the revolution it appears, and it is almost remarkable fact when we consider the present trade, that not a single pound had been raised for exportation - and indeed as late as 1784. when a vessel arrived at Liverpool with eight bags of American cotton board, they were seized by the revenue officers as lawful spoil, on the ground that it was impossible for so large a quantity to have been grown in the United States. From 1791 to 1825 South Carolina was the most abundant cotton growing state in the Union. In 1826 it yielded to Georgia, whose reputation lasted till 1834 - when in turn it was excelled by Alabama and Mississippi - the latter state having probably at present the largest growth of all.

The crops have been increasing in an amazing ratio - as will be clearly seen below;

The exports in 1791 were 188,316 lbs.

1798 were less than 1,900,000 lbs.

1802 27,501,075 "

1819 87,997,045 "

1820 127,860,152 "

1830 298,459,102 "

The latter exportation was worth \$7,000,000 less than that of 1825 and was yet of greater weight by 122,000,000 lbs - the price in 1825 being more that double that of 1830. The amount exported during 1838 was upwards of 639,000,000 lbs - leaving on hand of that year's crop more than 90,000,000 lbs for home consumption; the crop being in round numbers over 720,000,000 lbs!

A Southern writer sets down the entire growth of cotton in the world in 1838 at one thousand millions of pounds; of this five hundred and fifty millions are supposed grown in the United States - and the rest in Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, western Africa and western Asia. If the relative proportion of the U.S. was then so great, it must be now truly enormous - the same rate of increase having progressed meanwhile with its mighty reduplications.[??]

The growth and success of the cotton trade is not merely an exponent of the peculiar adaptation for the Southern soil to that culture, but it shows that the staple itself is intrinsically of great worth. Its cheapness has supplanted the use of linen - a change that would otherwise have been effected by the superiority of cotton as regards comfort and protection against an ever changing climate. It is a bad conductor of heat and a more equable temperature is therefore secured to the body.

The phases of the trade which we have above seen can be all satisfactorily accounted for. New and improved modes of tillage were early introduced, upon the extension of its range from Georgia as a centre to the Carolinas and westward to the Mississippi; and at this stage of its growth much influence was exerted both upon its production and exportation by various circumstances connected with the foreign policy of our government. The embargo and its consequent commercial regulations - and the war of 1812 - all tended greatly to increase its production; inasmuch as the people deemed it good policy to encourage their own manufactures, now that they were cut off from foreign markets - and in a short time a complete revival of the manufacturing interest was evident throughout the Union. But that interest was proportionately crushed again on the return of peace by the glutting of our markets with foreign goods not only from Great Britain, but from the East Indies; and it was this influx of foreign fabrics which brought about an application to Congress for industrial protection and laid the foundation of the tariff of 1816.

Now perhaps is the fittest time for us to pause a moment ere we resume the agricultural thread of our discourse, and to glance more closely than we have yet done at the various changes that have occurred in the history of American manufactures. After the planting of the colonies, it was to their best advantage for a time of course to purchase the fabrics of older nations with their own raw produce. But as the germ of liberty began to expand within them, as they became conscious of their rights as men, they endeavored by degrees to avoid this galling dependence upon the mother country - even though they incurred great pecuniary loss. Hence the English Board of Trade had good cause in the beginning of the last century for complaining 'that certain trades carried on and manufactures set up there are detrimental to the trade, navigation and manufactures of Great Britain.' Though these were at first of the modest kind, it was the policy of England to discourage any attempts of the colonists to supply themselves or to build unto them ships, wherewith they might supply others; for, as one of her statesmen asserted, 'the only use of the American colonies was the monopoly of their consumption and the carriage of their produce.' Acts of Parliament were accordingly passed (1732), restricting manufactures and (1750) proclaiming certain mills common nuisances - to be abated as such. And it was therefore no exaggeration when Lord Chatham openly declared, that 'the North American colonists had no right to make even a nail for a horse shoe.'

But the Revolution soon remediated the evil; artisans sprang up throughout the States - an efficient provision was made upon adoption of the Constitution for the support of all American trades, handicrafts and manufactures, by protecting duties which have been continued down to the present time.

To return now to the Cotton. What has Government done for it in comparison with private individuals? It is them alone we are indebted for that which has incalculably enriched not only America but the world. To be sure they were incited to exertion by the success of the planters - but then were it not for the fruits of their toil, the planter had long since given up his business in disgust and taken to some more profitable avocation. I refer now to the various improvements in machinery - by which the raw material is manufactured into its ultimate products, and under whose influence things that were formerly considered luxuries have actually become necessities of life. A series of revolutions, each working mighty changes for the better, have taken place in this manufacture, keeping pace with the successive

introduction of the spinning jenny, power loom and cotton gin - whose inventors are now justly enrolled among the real benefactors of their race. For the theories teaching that in proportion as manual labor was superseded by machinery, this modern Briasens, so would misery and poverty ensue, have all proved groundless - employment and good pay have been steadily on the increase - and the cotton factory shows itself more and more the friend of the poor. Despite the many evils hitherto consequent thereon, their influence is steadily abating - the cruel many hours systems have been abolished - the great temptation to all kinds of vice conquered by the impressive counsels of Morality and Religion - and the diffusion of sound learning has give to the spindle sweetest of music, and to the factory girl her place among our country's noblest and best beloved - Southern Senators to the contrary notwithstanding.

In speaking of the cotton culture of the S. West, we have unconsciously and yet naturally passed to to the manufacture of the staple. This is of necessity chiefly in the Northern, indeed in the New England states; for they have by far the most ample and effective supply of water power - their rivers being of rapid flow and constantly broken by falls. On their banks great manufacturing cities have sprung up as suddenly as those commercial daughters of the West, with the rapid growth of the mushroom but without its weakness - firmly founded, well supported, they are the monuments of American prosperity - to endure. The wealth of the North is to a great extent invested in the cotton manufacture - as early indeed as 1831, its capital amounted to \$40,612,984.

Despite my pious resolution to let rhapsody and poetry alone, as I have sinned once at least already I cannot here forbear referring to a strain of Darwin's - which besides giving a happy description will likewise show that cotton factories have charms for the imagination as well as the pocket. After remarking that where the river

'guides his dusky floods

Through vaulted mountains and a host of woods,

The nymph Gossypia treads the velvet sod

And warms with rosy smiles the watery god;

His ponderous oars to slender spindles turns

And pours o'er mossy wheels his foaming urns -

With playful charms her heavy lover wins

And wields his trident while the monarch spins' -

The bard proceeds to the description of all the various mysteries of the manufacture -

While 'fly the spokes, the rapid axles glow

And slowly circumvolves the laboring wheel below.'

To this branch of American agriculture, as to wheat, must hereafter be devoted the energies of Science - for it is found that by cultivation of cotton for a certain extent, the land is usually impoverished - North Carolina indeed having already greatly deteriorated in this respect. While on the other hand many soils prove too good for it - their fertility giving such rank luxuriance as to prevent maturity - without which the crop is as nothing.

The remaining agricultural staples of the West are tobacco, rice, sugar, (all of whose yearly crops are numbered by hundreds of thousands of hogsheads) and hemp - the latter of which has of late successfully competed with the far famed Russian on the one hand and the Manilla on the other, whilst there is no reason why the rice and sugar crops would not take the palm also, when the delta lands of Louisiana shall have been more extensively reclaimed. This can be done by the completion of extensive 'levees' on the plan of those in the neighborhood of New Orleans, and built in somewhat more substantial manner, that all crevasses may be effectually guarded against - accidents that would be of a much more appalling and fatal nature after the Mississippi had been thus forced into a narrower channel; the system of draining thereby instituted, like that proposed for the Florida everglades, would succeed well. The culture of the rice and the indigo plant together with the raising of silk have at times been carried on - and with profit.

The resources of the West thus far mentioned, though important, are but a part of its great whole. They were in the nature of things the first that were discovered and turned to account; the emigrant had no time to look about him for others - he must improve those he already possessed - and consequently it has not been until the present day that many of the most productive sources of wealth to the Miss. valley have been appreciated - and not yet even fully - that is reserved for posterity. By accident has it been in almost every case, that the vast stores of mineral treasure there concealed beneath the soil have been brought to light - and indeed how much more awaits the seeker, none can tell.

First perhaps in importance, though its place is closely disputed, is Coal - which is classed as it is merely for convenience sake, its ancient metamorphosis by no means giving it a just claim to the name of mineral.

The great coal measures of the Miss. valley differ in every respect from those of the Alleghanies; not only are their physical aspect and situation, their age, different but even the nature of the material itself. To decide whether the anthracite or the bituminous is on the whole the better would be difficult, if not impossible; for certain purposes each has its peculiar advantage - and the stony hardness of the one is fully compensated for by the ease of quarrying the other. No estimate can yet be formed of the importance of its coal to the West - its very existence has been known only of late; its value is of course unsettled and will ultimately be found inestimable, for it is there and will be needed till the end of time. In England alone, whose coal fields are but small in comparison with those of the U.S. the value of the annual product, as recently estimated by a Spanish writer, was 230,000,000 of francs or \$46,000,000, more than that of all the gold and silver mines of the American continents. To be sure this was before the discovery of the auriferous rocks and streams of California - but yet we may say with perfect truth that gold is of but little worth to a country in comparison with its coal, which for many reasons is all in all. Eventually the supply of wood for fuel will fail and then we must turn to this, as we have already

done in a great measure, for warmth, for comfort and the preparation of our food - for our progress in Science and the Arts - for the generation of steam - and for the fusing and working of all metals. To fire alone has Society been indebted for the greatest portion of its superiority over savage life, to it will it owe much of its future well being - and therefore to Coal.

An equally important substance found, together with its subsequently indispensable limestone, in close neighborhood to the coal seams, is Iron - and for this reason it should follow next on our list. As is the supply of coal, so is that of iron inexhaustible and invaluable. Its uses have always been without number - to them of late years has been added the construction of railroads and iron vessels - especially the former, which yearly consumes thousands, almost millions of tons. Home made iron now competes successfully with that of England, Sweden and Russia, both as regards quality and cost - and had it the protection it deserves, it would soon throw the others entirely from the market. It is one of the great riches of America - but most of the West, where the very mountains are of iron. Well is it that the Missourians propose to represent their state in the national Monument to Washington by a block of native iron - the father of his country could receive no fitter tribute - and Americans could offer none.

Next in importance and in almost equal abundance is Lead - which, though it had long been obtained by the French as galena, was not mined systematically until 1822; during the thirteen subsequent years, according to official returns, 70,420,357 lbs were manufactured. It forms in the North West the ground work of whole states and territories - encroaching almost upon the copper regions of the Southern lake - basin shores.

Though we might go on ad infinitum in enumerating the mineral resources of the West, we need mention but one or two more - the first of them a necessary of life - Salt. In other parts of the world the supply of this is from seawater or mines in the earth - whence, as in Poland, it is regularly quarried. Here however, although it is said that a salt mine has been recently discovered somewhere in the Alleghanies, it is chiefly procured from the water of saline springs - distributed for the most part throughout the valley of the Miss. In 1835 about 7,000,000 bushels were manufactured - and since then the annual produce has greatly increased - whilst the vats of Cape Cod from long disuse have warped and split and are crumbling to dust. **[Provincetown?]**

Saltpetre from the various caves has been extensively used hitherto in time of war for making gunpowder - and may be procured in large quantities.

Though they may not by many be considered of sufficient importance, we ought perhaps to allude to the great number of so-called mineral springs, which in addition to their sanitary properties, together with the currents of carburetted hydrogen gas, will doubtless in due time be made to some important economical purpose.

The various deposits of marl and limestone strata, already referred to as among the cause of fertility to particular sections of country, have not yet received nor need much attention; they will prove of great worth however, when the land begins to deteriorate - if ever the West does see a time which certainly is not yet.

And it here behooves us to say a passing word in defence of State Surveys hitherto made - for they have been charged with giving too much attention to technical and theoretical Science, to the harm of practical, industrial results. But this is far from the truth. They have been pioneers in a country of whose geology nothing was known and but little even correctly surmised. Under these circumstances therefore we do no more than justice, if we affirm in the words of a recent foreign author "that the American Geological Surveys do, in point of fact, contain more details of Statistical, Commercial and Industrial utility than can be found in the Geological reconnaissances and memoirs of any other Country."

From the above remarks which, did not our limits forbid, we might corroborate by various statistics, it will appear that as regards fertility of soil and extent of mineral beds the West is rich indeed - nay even we must here repeat that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find any country on the face of the globe containing within herself so many sources of natural wealth as the valley of the Mississippi.

But of little practical value would they be, were it not for the peculiar facilities of transportation secured by nature to the West. First and foremost of course among these is the river navigation, unsurpassed save by that of the Amazon. The steam boat navigation alone of the Miss. and its tributaries is placed by the last official estimate at about 16,674 miles, attaining a height of at least 1200 feet above the level of the sea. This is exclusive of the head waters and the more or less obstructed places which yet float smaller craft with ease.

During the year 1846 were transported on the western rivers no less than 1,862,750 tons of merchandise, valued at \$62,000,000. And yet notwithstanding the commerce is so immense, it is but of late that steps have been taken to improve internal navigation - on the ground that our sea coast needed more urgent aid. We do not deny that urgent need, we only claim its just rights for the West - which must meritably receive them as our commerce extends; for from the very nature of things foreign commerce will be limited to this country by her domestic and inland trade - and these latter in turn must entirely depend upon liberal systems of internal improvement for their extent and prosperity. The great and good work has been begun - these 'rafts' that so long blocked up whole rivers for miles have mostly been removed - snags have been torn up and sandbars channelled through; and while natural obstructions are thus conquered, artificial ones are to a great degree prevented - unless it be in cases like the Wheeling bridge, at present so much talked of - if, as the road, this be of national benefit, all masts and smokepipes, provided with joints on the Thames plan, should bow before it - otherwise its arch should curve higher.

From the rivers we are now brought, excluding the turnpikes, to the first of the two great systems of internal improvement at the west - Canals. In 1808 was built the Middlesex, the first canal in America and now they extend thousands of miles - equalling in extent those of Holland, Russia and China - surpassing them in profit and utility. It would indeed be difficult to find a situation more favorable for canalling than the Western Valley. Almost a dead level, the soil exceedingly friable, and untroubled by ledges of rock, they cost but comparatively little and when finished, soon repay with interest.

In times of old it was desired by the Emperor Charlemagne to open a direct communication between the German Ocean and the Black Sea by uniting the waters of the Danube and the Rhine. But Science could

not then accomplish so might a design and it was abandoned. An equally great project however has now been carried by America into perfect and successful effect. By her canals have been opened highways between the Mississippi and the Atlantic via the great lakes and St. Lawrence on the one hand and the Hudson on the other. In them can ships and steamers of the largest class pass around the Falls of Niagara and the Sault de St Marie, and by thus opening the navigation of Lake Superior they have effectually promoted the settlement of Michigan and the North West - have enhanced the value of the mineral regions, and have added another market for the commerce of the world. This is but one instance among many of their influence, and they are still extending. Flint predicted that "within half a century the waters of the Miss. would be united with those of the Western Sea."

But here he was probably at fault, unless perchance he referred to some 'Isthmus' project - for a much cheaper and better communication will be found in the other of the great systems above alluded to - Railroads; which have already fast bound the country in their iron chains. And yet they do not by any means necessarily supersede the use of canals, except of course in winter or where the latter may be impracticable. They only tend to monopolize by their superior speed and comfort the transportation of passengers - while they leave the bulk and weight of merchandize to be carried by the horse drawn barge. Where like the Argo of Jason, LaSalle's 'Griffin' sailed through unknown seas, man drives his steam plough - and the iron horse rushes past the bluffs where the mound builders worshipped their god. Verily we ask in trepidation, what can be next?

We have thus considered the great resources and commercial facilities of the West - a few thoughts given to the present condition of the people and our task is done.

Within two centuries this rich valley has filled with a population, whose increase has hitherto almost baffled computation. After Daniel Boone and his brother pioneers, followed the first settlers - farmers and mechanics, hard working men - to provide for whose various wants the professions and trades soon appeared; as the country became explored and known, its fame went abroad and across the sea - Then came emigrants from foreign lands - to be twice as well rewarded for their labor and skill as at home - to invest their capital at twice the profit - to purchase land outright for less money than would be their annual rent - in a word, to be free. And though gathered thus together from many places, they seem identified at once with the soil - become through intermarriage and a common education, Americans in feeling and in practice - inspired with new energy, they prosper and thrive.

It cannot be denied that Foreign Emigration has its evils. Abused as it is at present, through the supineness of our Government, paupers and criminals are sent hither from every corner of the Old World - to endanger that high national character our forefathers left us. God grant that the elegant comparison hold not good, which would liken us to the Mississippi - flowing onward bright and clean until it meets the turbid Missouri, then, merged in impurity and corruption, it loses its beauty forever. May we stand firm, unshaken ever-faithful to our trust.

As in the East, so at the West has hitherto been the character of the people. They as well as ourselves have had their North and their South - each distinguished from the other. The states on the Ohio were to a great extent settled from New England, and accordingly bear traces of their origin - of the coolness,

forecast and laborious hardihood that marked their Puritan forefathers - so different from the ardent, chivalrous, self-sacrificing cavalier of the South. These distinctive traits of character, well defined by nature, have been gradually strengthened by the climate under which they live and by other as active local causes; and though there are now many counteracting influences at work, we can still but see the great difference between the North- and South-Western states.

This is plainly visible in its economical form, as the following curious facts will show - owing partly to the greater facilities of communication with the West that the North has over the South - but as much, if not more, to the greater consumption of merchandise by the upper than by the lower western states, caused by the greater energy, thrift and prosperity of their people. The imports of New York were in 1832, seventy times as great as they were in 1769 and nearly twenty times more than they were in 1791. Virginia on the other hand imported in 1829 about one eleventh of what she did in 1769 and about one seventh of what she did in 1791. In a period too of eight years previous to 1832, the aggregate imports of New York amounted to \$311,000,000; those of South Carolina to about \$16,000,000 - and those of Virginia to about \$5,000,000. New York imported \$57,000,000 in 1832 - eleven times as much therefore as Virginia did in 8 years previously and nearly four times as much as South Carolina. Again New York imported in one year (1832) nearly fifty times as much as South Carolina in the same time and about one hundred and ten times as much as Virginia. Hereby, and not alone by their coal and water power has been effected that the great manufacturing districts of the West are those which have been peopled from New England - and that the Birmingham of America, like its Manchester, shall be in the North, which as first in trade is also in energy of purpose.

It is plainly visible in its social forms. The one people, with their active, business turn of mind could but group themselves together in large cities, where natural wants might be supplied, and their passion for mercantile pursuits, those restless habits that had thus driven them into the far west, might be gratified - while the other, disliking if not despising exertion, accustomed to obedience from others, live upon their plantations, surrounded by slaves, and are in comparison with the Northerners, scattered and few in number. Accordingly the laws of each people have their peculiar character - and thence of necessity has also the entire social condition of the two. We ought here perhaps, did we consult our feeling, to refer more at length to Slavery, that Southern Institution, accursed by God, abhorred by Man - but we forbear.

And finally it is visible in its moral and religious form. Here the North is plainly beyond the South and reaps in rich harvest the fruits of her widespread system of Education; her churches and her schoolhouses stand side by side not in the 'Western reserve' alone, but throughout the land - to secure to her hereafter, as hitherto, the blessing of Heaven. Whilst Arkansas, on the other hand, to whom public lands had been granted by Congress that she might therewith establish a seminary of learning, has within the past year, by act of the legislature of 1849, divided this fund among her several counties, to spend as they best choose - in utter defiance of all principles of honor and morality.

As has already been said, counteracting influences are at work, and will eventually greatly elevate the character of the South - which, though deficient in such respects as these, in others truly deserves our admiration. In natural advantages as rich as the North, it has its peculiar staples and possesses the

mouth of the Miss. which drains the country of its superfluous produce as it does of its waters. It has its New Orleans, like St. Petersburg, the door to a continent. And in proportion as it is brought into closer communion with its neighbors by railroads and the electro-magnet, so will it progress and flourish the more.

The North depends upon the South and the South upon the North - united they stand, divided they fall. The one cannot exist without the other, more than can the East without the West. They are all bound together by every tie of interest, of blood, of country; and example so long to the world of good government, of wealth and of happiness, they will not dissolve their glorious Union, hardly obtained and nobly preserved - but in this hour of trial will defend their birthright against all attacks of faction and of treason - and will seal their compact anew - at Richmond - in stone.

America is yet as it were in her infancy and as roll on the years, so will her power increase. The West will one day become the most thickly settled portion of the country and the most wealthy; thitherward will be removed the seat of government, to restore the changing equilibrium. Then will be public lands, so no longer - inundated districts reclaimed and a recurrence of such mishaps as those of 1811 and 1849 prevented;- a plan for the latter indeed has already been projected - which is to open a new mouth for the Miss. into Lake Pontchartrain and thus give, besides additional security to property, great benefits to Commerce - unclosing a direct communication with the Gulf and rendering the troublesome, tedious and expensive navigation of the lower Mississippi useless.

Ere long will be banished by civilization those causes of sickness, peculiar to the West - miasmata, noxious vapors from marshy alluvions, which only need the treatment already applied so successfully to 'the American bottom' by spade and plough. Steam will continue its hearty labors, and within the next 32 years will probably work as great a change upon the West again, as has come over it since the first steam boat was baptized by its waters in 1818. And the railroad must bind us to the Pacific - for those fertile plains beyond the Rocky Mts. were meant to be ours - the star of our westward extending empire can set but in the ocean, which at the West as at the East was placed by Nature as our boundary. The whaling vessels of those seas would be spared the dangers of Cape Horn - a new and fruitful field would be opened to that enterprize which now toils on the 'banks' of Newfoundland - and the Anglo American, now Californian, under the stars and stripes would there show forth in still brighter light his 'industrial feudalism' as an example to the World.

That the Indians are a doomed race, there can be now but little doubt. Though Elliott's course has been often and nobly pursued - though Government has on the whole evince a loving and forgiving spirit - though attempts have been made in Alabama to civilize them and in Kentucky to fashion them into scholars, it is all comparatively in vain. The White Man's fire water and his licentiousness have counteracted every good influence - their ways are not his ways, neither will they walk in the same path with him. We are now banishing the last of the Seminoles to beyond the Miss.; shortly they will all have vanished from before that fate which has driven them from the graves of their fathers towards the setting sun - will have been taken by the Great Spirit to the hunting grounds of the brave.

With the progress of just moral ideas, Slavery will disappear - and we may fairly expect that within the coming century the sun will pass in his course over a continent united prosperous and free - unequalled for resources of soil, character of people and commercial facilities - whose rank among nations is first - whose domains are those of peace and happiness - among whose wealth is one crowing jewel - without price - known to the world as "the Valley of the Mississippi."

A Solitary Sandpiper.

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