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## **The emigrant's instructor on Wisconsin and the western states of America. 1844**

British Temperance Emigration Society and Saving Fund  
Liverpool: British Temperance Emigration Society and Saving  
Fund, 1844

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*John Wilson Esq Boston presented to  
the Honable Mr Roberts Secy*

**Price Sixpence.**

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THE  
**EMIGRANT'S INSTRUCTOR**  
ON  
**WISCONSIN.**  
AND THE  
**WESTERN STATES**  
OF  
**AMERICA.**

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*Published by the British Temperance Emigration  
Society.*

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**SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.**

**SOLD BY G. CUTLER, 34, PARADISE-ST.  
S. ROBERTS, TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 17, BUTTON-ST.**

**LIVERPOOL:**

And by the Secretaries of the different Branches of the British  
Temperance Emigration Society, in various parts of the Kingdom.

—  
**1844.**



DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
WISCONSIN TERRITORY  
AND SOME OF THE  
States and Territories adjoining to it,  
IN  
THE WESTERN PARTS  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES  
OF  
AMERICA.

SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH TEM-  
PERANCE EMIGRATION SOCIETY AND SAVING FUND.

ROBERT GORST, *Secretary.*

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LIVERPOOL:  
PRINTED BY G. CUTLER, 34, PARADISE STREET.

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Joseph Allen, D.D.  
of Northboro.

(Class of 1811.)

## INTRODUCTION.

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The only apology which the Committee would offer in laying before its members and the public the present pamphlet is—It contains a statement of incontrovertible facts, which ought to be known by all persons who may be inclined to emigrate from this country to the States of America.

Thousands of emigrants have been robbed, plundered, misled, and ruined, for want of proper information on this important subject.

It is supposed that the increase of the population of England is 1,000 a day. The land gets no larger for us to live upon; there is a general depression of trade, and at the same time no prospect of improvement; and it must be acknowledged by all thinking persons that bad as it is with the present, it is likely to be worse with the rising generation of the working classes.

It is under these considerations that many thousands of our countrymen have migrated, to seek their bread on a foreign soil.

Those persons who wish to emigrate to Wisconsin, or any of the western states of America, with an intention to purchase and cultivate land, and are only in possession of small means, are invited to think before they act. If they don't get a crop to reap the first summer of their arrival out, it would be ruinous. And such a crop could not be had except the emigrant commenced his labour on his land very early in spring; and in order to do so he would be under the painful but absolute necessity of crossing the Atlantic in the winter season, which is not only dangerous but expensive. In the winter, vessels are frequently detained in port through gales and contrary winds, and are often driven back until the emigrant has eaten up all the provisions which he had got for the voyage. And on some occasions he has to provide even a second or third time.

From New York to Wisconsin the travelling expenses are double in the winter what they are in the summer season.

Before the emigrant can settle on the land the Government Office has to be found, the Agent to be seen, the land to be examined, (which may be 40 or 50 miles from the land office.) The agent again must be seen, and the land purchased. A house has to be built—materials to build it of to be sought for—wife and family on no small expenses. A part of the land has then to be fenced, and ploughed with a heavy plough, drawn by from four to eight oxen on the first time of its being broken up. This plough and oxen may not be at hand, either for hire or sale, when wanted: this would cause a delay of time and great expense; and in this way many emigrants have let the first summer pass without reaping a harvest from their own land, and their living has taken the whole of their capital. If the emigrant goes over in the spring of the year he will be too late to have a crop on the first summer of his arrival, except he has made previous arrangement. It is therefore the firm belief of the committee that the privileges afforded to the members of the British Temperance Emigration Society,—connected with their £40 share of eighty acres of land, a house to live in, and £0 5s. in goods or cash—besides the privilege of having five acres of land sowed with wheat—will afford more real comfort and better prospects than what could be secured to him in any other way for double the money, as all the above-named difficulties and obstacles will be removed by the arrangements of the Society. The emigrant will not only have a harvest of wheat, but of Indian corn, potatoes, beans, &c. on the first summer of his arrival out, and this for a small payment of 1s. per week for ten years.

The Society's land is in a healthy situation, with a fine stream of pure water running through the midst of it, and a sufficient quantity of good timber, free stone, and lime stone for building purposes. The prairie soil is rich and fertile. Its location is near the mineral districts, about 114 miles west of Milwaukee: and when Wisconsin and Fox rivers are united together, which is likely soon to be the case, the settlers will not only have a good home market, arising from its being near the mineral and pinary districts, but will likewise have an eastern market, by water from the settlement through all the lakes; and it now enjoys the privilege of a western market down the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.

A most eligible site of land is likewise selected for a Town.

Emigration is a most serious and important step, and ought to be

well considered before it is taken. Each person ought to ask himself questions like unto the following:—1st, What is the present state and what are the future prospects of England—is it a rising or a falling country? Am I now in comfortable circumstances? Am I likely to remain so? Are my children and posterity likely to live comfortably in England? Or, does poverty and hopeless ruin appear to await them? Ought I not, as a Christian parent, to study, not only our present, but future interests? 2ndly, What are the natural resources of America as a nation? Has it prospered?—is it rising in the scale of nations? is it likely to become a rich, powerful, and happy country? Are the working classes fed, clothed, free, and independent?—can they raise themselves above the fear of a union workhouse by care and industry, and make themselves proprietors of the soil on which they live? Or are they legally robbed, like some of their neighbours, out of about two-thirds of all they get? 3rdly, Have I made up my mind steadily and perseveringly to meet and overcome difficulties for a few months, or for one or two years if I have in view the comforts of a future home? Or am I one of those home sick creatures that would not be happy or satisfied if I were placed in an earthly paradise from home? Can I give up my country—my present home and friends? Or am I one of those who, when from home, will constantly be making myself and all around me miserable and dissatisfied?

Get satisfied on these points, and then come to a conclusion. Nothing shows the weakness of a person more than to form a resolution to-day, and repent to-morrow. I knew a couple who emigrated a distance of 5000 miles; they were in the country seven days; absent from home four months; and the reason the husband assigned for their return was, that the wife wanted to see her mother, and he thought he would come with her.

We would strongly advise all our own members not to emigrate until they can go out on their own shares, and enjoy all the comforts, privileges, and protection of the Society.

In connexion with this Society Branches are formed in Barnsley, Leeds, Sheffield, Northwich, Worcester, London, Lincoln, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Leicester. There are likewise Branches forming in Warrington, Shrewsbury, Horncastle, Birmingham, Manchester, Salisbury, Rochester, Uxbridge, Malton, Stoke, Runcorn, and St. Helen's.



We have forwarded instructions for the formation of Branches in Preston, Middleborough-on-Tees, Louth, (Lincolnshire,) Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and have many members in various parts of the Kingdom.

We have now 750 enrolled shares on our books, subscribing for 60,000 acres of land. There are a number of shares taken up in newly forming Branches, the returns of which we have not received, and those are not included in the above number.

Our Agent went out in August, 1843, to purchase and prepare the land, build the houses, and make the necessary arrangement for the reception of the first portion of emigrants, which left England on the 22nd of April, 1844, and are now occupying 14 shares, of eighty acres each, of the Society's estate.

The Committee meet on the fourth Monday in each month, at Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS'S, Temperance Hotel, 17, Button-street, White-chapel, Liverpool, at Eight o'Clock in the evening, where prospectuses may be had, gratis; likewise the Laws of this Society, price Sixpence; a Pamphlet, giving a description of Wisconsin, price Sixpence, and the Society's Report of last year, price Twopence each.

**R. GORST, SECRETARY.**

*Liverpool, August 21, 1844.*

## DESCRIPTION OF WISCONSIN,

&c. &c.

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In forming a Society for the purpose of enabling persons with a small income to emigrate with a certainty of bettering their condition, great care has been taken in selecting the place to migrate to, so as to have the greatest advantage with the least inconvenience. In doing this no trouble has been spared to gain the best information from all the places on the globe where the tide of emigration has been setting for the last twenty years. The Cape of Good Hope has been thought of, but the distance from us, and the annoyance of the savages prevent its recommendation. Australia, too, from the contradictory accounts, and distance from England holds out no inducement; and Canada is situated so far north, that its winters are too long and severe for the English constitution; besides, the land is almost one continued forest, which makes it the labour of a man's life before a farm can be cleared and got into good cultivation. After examining these and many more colonial settlements, with similar results, it was resolved to examine the United States, where any climate may be chosen from the West Indian summer to the severe Canadian winter. After a careful investigation, the committee have come to the resolution to fix on the territory of Wisconsin, on the west side of Lake Michigan, in the United States.

Wisconsin is situated in from 43 deg. 30 min. to 49 deg. north latitude, and from 87 deg. 40 min. to 93 deg. 0 min. west longitude. It is bounded on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by the State of Illinois, on the west by the River Mississippi, and on the north by Lake Superior. Its length is about 449 miles, and width 230 miles, containing an area of about 93,000 square miles, or about 61,020,000 English statute acres of land. The country is neither mountainous nor swampy, but consists of a number of inclined planes, or, using a more rural phrase, "slopes." It is intersected in all directions with rivers, navigable for small craft, such as are used in conveying produce to market; and the large Lake Superior is about 400 miles in length, and 80 miles in width. Lake Michigan is about 520 miles in length and 70 miles in width. It opens all the east and north coast of the territory to the River Saint Lawrence, and thereby to the Atlantic Ocean; and the west coast is open to the River Mississippi, which falls into the Gulf of Mexico, below New Orleans; so that three sides of this country are open to the Atlantic by water.

The country is well supplied with running streams, which are so very

useful in watering the land and cattle. Neither is it like Canada, covered with wood; it only having a sufficient quantity for fencing, building, and fring.

After giving a description of this territory in the United States, some may wonder that it should be so long in existence and so little known. The causes are plain: it was purchased from the Indians in 1836; it had no landing places, neither on the Lake nor on the River Mississippi; the steam boats used to pass within a few miles of this fine land, on their passage to Illinois, without noticing it, as it had not arrested the attention of the public. But this obstacle is now removed. There are already three ports or landing places on Lake Michigan, viz. Milwaukee, Southport, and Racine; and it has already been discussed in the house of congress for a grant of the public money for that purpose. As a proof of the above description being in no way coloured, the following extracts and letters are given from persons residing in the country:—

“There is no portion of this immense and interesting country which is calculated to excite the emigrant's attention more than the western region, comprising the states of Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, the valley of the Mississippi, and the territories of Wisconsin and Arkansas.

“These states and territories, from the richness of their soil and convenience of their localities, have been unparalleled in the increase of wealth and population. No where has such an extent of prairie and forest land been before cultivated in so short a time. Such is the richness of the soil, its variety of productions, the general nature of the climate, and such are the facilities which exist for the carrying on of commerce and mutual intercourse and communication by the navigable rivers, the immense lakes, the canals and railroads, that this portion of the great western continent cannot fail to be an object of interest and advantage to the emigrant, and ultimately to become, perhaps, the greatest and wealthiest country in the world. It is a young and tender country at present; but, like the luxuriant vegetation it produces, it is daily making rapid advances towards a maturity of gigantic strength and proportions; for within the last ten years millions of acres of government land have been brought into market and disposed of, new settlements have been made, counties demarked, and towns have sprung up, and are in a prosperous and flourishing condition.

“In the southern parts, from Terrahante to the Mississippi, the prairies are small and varying in size from that of twenty acres to several miles in extent. In many of these prairies, or meadow lands, are here and there copses, and groves of timber trees, occupying a space of ground of from 200 to 2000 acres. These have a beautiful and singular appearance, causing the verdant prairie plain to look like the ocean studded with islands. The region of the lead mines in the Wisconsin territory has a similar appearance.

“In the northern part of the state, lead ore, of perhaps the richest kind yet discovered in any other quarter of the globe, may be found in vast quantities; and in the Wisconsin territory, which joins this state, copper may be met with in great abundance.”

#### WISCONSIN AND ITS RESOURCES.

There is scarcely a week passes that we do not hear something of the beauty, fertility, or prospects of the North Western States; but it comes to us in such a confused and detached form, that persons who

have not seen it, do not get a clear idea of its resources. If you can allow me a place in your columns, I will give a sketch of its resources and probable destiny.

"The order of settlement in the territory northwest of the Ohio was exactly the reverse of the order of discovery. The eastern shore of Wisconsin was explored in 1671, by Nicholas Perrot and Father Marquette. In 1672, Marquette and Juliet ascended the Fox River of Green Bay, now called Neenah River, accompanied by five Frenchman and two Indians. They crossed the Portage at Fort Winnebago into the Ouisconsin, and committing their canoes to the current, floated into the Mississippi. They are considered as the discoverers of that river, which they descended to the mouth of the Arkansas, and returning by the Illinois, reached Lake Michigan at its southern extremity. They thus saw most of the country now embraced in the settled portions of Wisconsin, one hundred and sixty-one years before the region was thoroughly settled. Juliet returned to France, proclaiming the amazing fertility of the soil, the surpassing beauty of the prairie upland, the profusion of game and fish, and the magnificent rivers which they navigated; but his descriptions so far exceeded any thing then known, that they were regarded at Paris as the stories of a traveller who does not expect his footsteps will be followed by others.

"Marquette's party saw the counties of Grant, Iowa, Dane, Portage and Marquette, on the Wisconsin river; the counties of Fond du Lac, Calumet and Brown, on the Neenah; and on the lake side, the counties of Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Washington, Milwaukie and Racine. The remaining interior counties of Dodge, Jefferson, Rock and Walworth, are equally fertile and beautiful with those which threw the French into such ecstasies of delight.

"The southern tier of counties, which are six in number, and include the weight of the present population, are about one half dry and rolling prairie, without timber. The oak openings, wet prairie and lakes, cover the remaining half. The four western counties show about one-third dry prairie and much more wet prairie than the southern tier. These counties are not thickly settled.

"The timber country, or forest proper, lies at the north east, between Lake Winnebago and the Neenah and Lake Michigan. It extends south and south east along the shore into the counties of Milwaukie and Jefferson, they being part prairie and part woodland. The wet prairie is also found in the timber land bordering the streams, and affords everywhere hay and pasturage without cultivation.

"The soil of the prairie country is composed of that happy mixture of ingredients which is easily tilled, and not much affected by rains, called by the farmers 'loam.' It rests every where upon a lime-rock, which discloses itself in the bed of almost every stream. The creeks and rivers are the most remarkable feature of the Wisconsin country. They are spread over the country profusely, receiving their supplies from pure spring water flowing from every section of land. They are transparent and permanent, capable of and calculated for an immense water power, without endangering the health of the country. Over all this region there are neither mountains nor even ranges of hills. The surface is a succession of graceful undulations, the elevations sometimes high, but the ascent gentle, the valleys broad and covered with tall grass.

"The latitude is propitious for the several grains, particularly for wheat, which will be the great commodity of the region. The purity and abundance of living water, with the cool and healthy character of the climate, will develop the physical man to his highest limit.

## NO. II.

"In my last number I contemplated the general geography, and the agricultural advantages of Wisconsin. The two large western counties of Iowa and Grant, are mineral and agricultural; and the counties of Green and Dane, adjoining them on the east, are of the same character, though less developed. The lead produced, and of course exported, from these counties in 1840, was 15,129,350 pounds, or 7,564 tons. The wheat product of the same year for the mineral counties, was 35,084 bushels; cattle, 10,750; hogs, 19,868.

"The south-eastern agricultural counties raised the same year:—

	WHEAT.	CATTLE.	HOGS.
Rock .....	21,702	1,804	3,560
Jefferson .....	6,647	1,045	—
Walworth .....	59,560	2,851	6,380
Racine .....	36,099	4,500	6,500
Milwaukee .....	34,236	5,100	8,810
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	101,244	15,300	25,268

"The remaining nine counties at the north and northwest returned only 11,085 bushels of wheat, principally from the county of Brown, which includes the ancient settlement of Green Bay.

"The northern timber counties, lying on the Lake and the Neenah, form a triangle with its northern point at the mouth of Green Bay. They are destined to become a grazing district, to settle slowly, to export not largely, and having two sides open to navigation, will not furnish business for a place of any importance on the Lake side. The principal point of commerce must be further south, to accommodate the lead and wheat region, which we have already described. In 1840, the government caused a survey to be made of the Neenah and Wisconsin rivers, with a view to steamboat navigation from the Mississippi to Green Bay. The report of the engineers shows that the ordinary class of Mississippi boats may pass over the Winnebago summit into Lake Michigan by means of an expenditure of only 448,000 dollars. This project will undoubtedly be carried into effect. But steamboats already ascend the Wisconsin in high water, and batteaux ascend and descend the Neenah.

"There is at this time no part of the territory more than 75 miles from a natural water communication. The wheat and flour, cattle and hogs, of the south and south eastern counties will of course always seek the eastern market through some part of Lake Michigan. The wheat, flour, lead, and copper of the mineral counties of the southwest will also take that course, if facilities are offered. The distance from the Lake to the Mississippi, is about 150 miles, and lead has been hauled 120 miles of this distance in wagons to the Lakes, showing that it prefers the eastern routes even without facilities. The construction of a canal or railroad would bring produce and mineral from the very banks of the Mississippi. The future travel from the Upper Mississippi to the eastern cities will take the inland route through Wisconsin, as soon as a communication is provided for it. In the first place, there is already a railway from Boston through Albany to Buffalo.

"From Buffalo to Detroit is a fine steamboat navigation in summer. From Detroit a railroad is already constructed for 90 miles, on which the cars are running. It is a State work, and is to be completed at Kalamazoo, within 50 miles of Lake Michigan, during the coming spring. It will terminate at the harbour of St. Joseph's, and in its general direction points exactly to the rich mineral and agricultural districts in the South and centre of Wisconsin. From St. Joseph across the Lake is from 65 to 70 miles.

"When this line is produced, as it must be to the Mississippi, four days will be sufficient time for a citizen of Iowa to put his foot upon the pavement in Boston, thus:—To Racine, 150 miles by railroad, 10 hours; steamboat to St. Joseph's, 70 miles, 8 hours; Detroit 190 miles railroad, 15 hours; Buffalo by steam, 25, Albany, railroad, 25; Boston 12—1170 miles—63 or 90 hours."—*Racine Advocate*, February 20, 1844.

## WISCONSIN—FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

*Copied from Abel's Chart on Wisconsin and the Western States.*

The surface of the country is generally dry, and somewhat resembling the lazy swell of the sea after a storm. The country is broken in very few places only, particularly along the larger streams, swamps and other obstructions to agriculture being few; and as the soil is of the very richest and finest quality, there is every reason to believe that Wisconsin can sustain a heavier population than any other territory in the United States in proportion to its miles.

### CLIMATE OF WISCONSIN.

The climate is considerably milder here than in any of the eastern states of the same latitude, and is celebrated for being temperate and healthy. The cause of this remarkably mild temperature is attributed mostly to the flatness and regularity of the country, there being no mountains to create those cold streams of air which are felt so sensibly in the eastern states during the winter seasons. But another circumstance which might produce the same effect, is the more dry and regular weather, as it is a well known fact, that whilst a wet and stormy winter creates colds and consumptions, a clear frost not only refreshes the body, but also gives new life to the spirits. The climate here is not so subject to those sudden changes and extreme heat and cold as in the other western states, and consequently there are but very few cases of consumption, which are generally produced by imprudence and bad management.

### RIVERS IN WISCONSIN.

A mere glance at the map will show what astonishing advantages for navigation the Author of nature has given to this territory.

The navigable streams are numerous. The Mississippi—the father of waters, and the St. Peter's River, are navigable for canoes for nearly 200 miles. On this river are a great number of saw mills. Piree, the Upper Iowa, Wisconsin, Turkey, Grant, Platte, Skunk, Maquan Quetois, Fever, Waube, Sapinscon, Rock, Lower Iowa, and Des Moines Rivers, amongst these the Wisconsin is the most important. This river rises near 26 degrees north latitude, and after travelling a south easterly direction about 200 miles to Fort Winnebago, and then a southwesterly direction for 200

miles more, empties itself into the Mississippi, about 300 miles above St. Lewis. This is one of the noblest streams in the West, and its waters are as clear as crystal. The timber on this river is of the finest character, and of convenient access to the river, down which it can be floated with ease. The Wisconsin is half a mile wide near its mouth; it has three tributaries, Kickapoo, Blue, and Pine Rivers; the latter is navigable for canoes. Fox River rises in a small lake 15 or 20 miles east of Fort Winnebago, and passing round towards the Fort, runs within a mile of the Wisconsin river, and continuing in a northerly and then in a north easterly direction, empties into Green Bay, near the town of Aster.

Rev. J. M. Peck in his Appendix to his Gazetteer of Illinois, has the following pointed remark: A steamboat navigation from Green Bay to the Wisconsin and the Mississippi, could be opened for less expense than it would cost the government for congress to talk about it. There are several other small rivers which empty themselves into Lake Michigan.

#### PRAIRIES OR MEADOWS.

These are the gardens of the West. The soil on the prairies is of the richest and finest kind. From May to October the prairies are covered with tall grass and weeds and in the season of flowers the eyes, and all the senses receive the highest gratification. In the time of strawberries thousands of acres are reddened with the finest quality of this delicious fruit, several of which have been found to measure from 2 to 2½ inches in circumference.

#### GROVES AND TIMBERED LANDS.

Groves are copses of timber, containing from 100 to 20,000 acres, which are spread on the prairies like islands in the ocean. This is a common feature in the country between Wisconsin river and Lake Michigan.

The lead mine regions, both on the east and west side of the Mississippi, abound with these groves. They have generally springs of the purest water, and are covered with bushes of hazel and furze, over-topped by the common hop, small sassafras shrubs, interspersed with grape vine, and in the season of flowers becomes beautiful by a rich profusion of gay, herbaceous plants. Early in March the forests are in blossom, and the brilliant yellow flowered honeysuckle, diffusing its pleasing fragrance, and the lovely yellow jessamine impregnates the air with its delicious perfume. Upwards of 30 different sorts of timber are found here; the most common are black and white walnut or butternut, cedar, dwarf sumac, ash of several species—white, red, and slippery, elm, sugar and curled maple, dogwood, willow, honey locust, duckeye, sycamore, Necan, cotton wood, iron wood, hickory, hackleberry, mulberry, black-jack; several oaks, as overcup, burrblack, white, red, or sappish oak, post oak, and several others; the latter is a valuable and lasting timber for posts.

#### PRODUCTION OF THE SOIL.

This is the country for the good things of this earth. All the grains, fruits and roots of the temperate regions of the globe grow luxuriantly. The wheat is of excellent quality, garden vegetables of all kinds succeed well, and the soil is remarkably adapted for raising the finest fruit and

fruit-bearing shrubs, wild fruit and berries are abundant in many places, wild grapes grow in abundance, and might be made into excellent wine; foreign vines are easily cultivated here, and many of the French settlers make their own wines.

Wild plumbs, crab apples, cherries, gooseberries, strawberries, walnuts, paw-paw, hickory, pecan, butternut, and hazel, grow here in great profusion. The black mulberry grows in some part, and has been used for the feeding of silk worms with great success. They appear to thrive and to spin as well upon this as on the Italian mulberry.

Of domestic fruit, apples and peaches are chiefly cultivated, and the vegetable productions in the field, Indian corn, wheat, buck wheat, oats, barley, fresh and sweet potatoes, (potatoes yield well with little cultivation) rye, ruta bega, mangel wurtzel, flax, hemp, turnips, pumpkins, water and musk melons, peas, the castor bean, and every other production common in the middle states. Indian corn is a staple production; its average yield is from 60 to 75 bushels to the acre, and often 100; wheat from 30 to 50 bushels, oats from 50 to 75, potatoes from 300 to 500 bushels per acre, and are of a superior quality to those raised in the other western states.

The soil of Wisconsin and Iowa is remarkably well adapted for the cultivation of the sugar beet, which might be carried on here to advantage, 1 acre of good land will produce 44,000 pounds of beet root, from which 2,400 pounds of sugar can be extracted, which, at 10 cents per pound, amounts to 240 dollars, the product of one acre only.

#### ANIMALS, WILD AND DOMESTIC.

Buffaloes, bears, and wolves, are now scarcely ever seen. Elk, deer, foxes, rabbits, racoons, squirrels, oposoms, beavers, otters, and musk rats, are very numerous; wild horses are sometimes caught by French settlers, and made an article of traffic, their common price is from 20 to 30 dollars each. This is one of the greatest countries of the west for raising stock, or cattle. Thousands of hogs are raised without much attention or expense. The beef here is the best in the world and is tender and delicious.

Breeding mares here are profitable stock. Some farmers keep a stallion and eight or ten brood mares. They generally thrive well here, especially where the grass has become short.

Poultry is raised in great profusion, some farmers raise from 200 to 300 fowls in a season, besides ducks, geese, and turkeys.

#### BIRDS.

The lakes and rivers in spring and autumn, are literally covered with the winged tribe; the most common are geese, ducks, swans, pelicans, cranes, and water turkeys; and on the prairies you will find thousands of prairie fowls, wild turkeys, partridges, plover, woodcocks, snipes, herons, pheasants, and wild pigeons.

#### FISH

The rivers and lakes are filled with fish of a most delicious kind; the trout, bass, perch, catfish, eel, buffalo, pike, pickerel, sturgeon, mullet, muskelonge, and various other kinds are caught, and sent to the market by wagon loads. The white fish of the lakes is one of the finest fishes in America, and millions of them are caught and packed up every year,



and sent to the eastern markets. The American Fur Co. packed over 3,500 barrels last year, 1832.

### EXTRACTS OF LETTERS.

The Hon. Mr. Vanderpoel, of New York, in his letter, says, "Nature has indeed been most bountiful to Wisconsin; upland and lowland prairie, and vast openings most conveniently and eligibly divided, a country well watered, and a climate salubrious, and less rigorous than that to which we are here (New York) accustomed. Nothing can surely be wanting to render Wisconsin a point of great attraction to the enterprising emigrant."

The letter of Henry R. Schoolcraft, U.S. Indian Agent, states, that "the fourth lake is a beautiful sheet of transparent water, with an open clear shore, which rises into handsome elevations; in the vicinity some portions of the shore contain precipitous lodges of rocks; it is embraced within the district of a good limestone soil, and has a fair proportion of forest. It is not only beautiful to the eye, but has every indication of being salubrious, and possessing the elements of future wealth and prosperity.

#### EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. TUCKER, RACINE, WISCONSIN TERRITORY, JULY 24, 1843.

"Milwaukee, Racine, Southport, and Checago are increasing at a rapid rate. Houses are springing up amongst the stumps of the trees left in the ground. The situation of the second town is beautiful, being on the top of a hill overlooking lake Michigan.

"Leaving the town by the United States road to the Mississippi, you pass through the forest which skirts the border of the lake, a mile and half in breadth. On emerging from this you cross over a beautiful green prairie, five or six miles wide, almost without a tree, extending on the left to Checago, 80 miles; afterwards it is most beautiful, beyond the power of description or conception—a vast extent of undulating ground, of a rich black soil, covered with luxuriant grass, frequently up to your middle, with plenty of living water; sprinkled over with trees and large groves, without any brambles, bushes, or underwood, but, like a gentleman's park, in the highest state of culture and beauty; and actually swarming with fine deer, wild turkeys, snipes, wild ducks, pigeons, flocks of black birds, with crimson breast and prairie hens of the size and appearance of pheasants, from single birds to flocks of from twenty to forty, some in trees and others on the ground, and all as tame as if man had never crossed their path.

"Then two miles south of this place is a lake  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide, fine gravelly bottom, and the finest fishery in the world. It was of this Mr. Cole spake in his letter, seven years ago; there was not more than eleven white men in the territory; now for miles along the sides of road there is not an acre of government land unsold. I beat about in every direction for some days, with my gun in my hand and pistols in my pocket, thinking I was entering on a wilderness. I soon found my mistake. Except a marsh or two, every foot of land is taken for miles, and the country is studded all over with frame houses, and incipient

farms in every direction, tenanted by English, Scotch, and many from the eastern States, and a more kind-hearted, healthy, intelligent, and happy people, I believe, there is not under the sun.

"By chance I stopped at a respectable public house by the wayside, seventeen miles from Racine, as I was returning thither, and under peculiar circumstances I have picked up 80 acres, which, in a few years, will be valuable; it cost me £33 sterling; it faces the south, and runs down to the side of the United States road, and is close by a rising village, studded over with fine oaks, and has two ponds of fine water in it, and in five years from this time will be worth ten dollars per acre.

"There is no fear of robbers here; there is merely a latch upon the door—you raise the latch and walk in. Such a thing as a lock or bolt is unknown.

"If you, sir, were to see this place, you would never think of going to Australia. Our next neighbour is a Quaker who came from there; and you are equally mistaken in thinking that there is no money; all the produce of the west passes Racine, there it is purchased with gold and silver, (we have neither notes nor copper) and the produce is shipped off up the lakes for New York, or the St. Lawrence. There is a cash market for every thing. At Mr. Logan's, a respectable small inn here, you can lodge with comfort, almost luxuriously eating three times a day, of fowls, meat, pies, puddings and preserves, in short a table fit for a gentleman, for two dollars per week, or less for a longer period. I repeat Mr. Cole's assertion, if any man with £150 or £200, do not in a little time become rich and independent, it is entirely his own fault. There is land at 5s. per acre further to the west, but it is higher if purchased here.

"There are corn and saw mills four miles off, and brick kilns at Rochester; and seven miles on this same road is building a woollen factory. At Burlington, bricks are 4 dollars per 1000; one inch oak board, 8 dollars per 100 feet, pine ditto, at Racine, 8 to 10 dollars; shingles, 2 dollars. Two story French houses, for a family, 100 to 120 dollars. Rails and fencing 2 dollars to 3 dollars per acre. Breaking up land 2 dollars per acre. Two oxen and yoke, 55 dollars. Fine long-tailed high-bred horses, 45 to 60 dollars. Milch cows, 8 to 10 dollars. Heifer and calf, 9 dollars. Potatoes 6d the English bushel; wheat, 3s. 3d.; Indian corn, 1s. 6d.; oats, 9d. A barrel of flour, 106 lbs, 5 dollars. Sheep, 1 dollar; pigs, next to nothing; lamb, 2 to 3 cents per lb; pork, 3 cents; beef, 3 to 4 cents; veal, 2 cents; sugar, 8 cents; coffee, 12 cents; butter and cheese, 8 to 10 cents; rice, 4 cents; brandy, 6d per pint; tobacco, 12 cents per lb; sash window glass, 5 cents 12 inches by 11 square.

"I have walked over the land in every direction, and have found the prairie bearing the rose, sweet William, the indigo plant, and a great variety of the most beautiful flowers. At the Scotch settlements, one mile distant, are very fine gardens filled with flowers from Scotland.

"The mode of culture is this—in July the clod is turned over with a broad-shared plough, in furrows of 18 inches in breadth; in this state it lies till the ensuing May; then in every five or six furrows are dropped three or four grains of Indian corn, at about 1½ or 2 yards apart, and there is an end; or in the spring it is harrowed. Wheat, barley, and

oats are sown pretty thick, on account of the richness of the soil. Water melons, cucumbers, and pumpkins come to great perfection in the open fields. Hay is 2 dollars per ton, and from two to three tons on the acre. You are at liberty to cut the grass any where you think proper, except in the inclosures, whether the land be your neighbour's or not. The cattle graze anywhere, and are in high condition. And the pigs find their living and get fat on the acorn of the bur oak, so as to be ready for the knife without the cost of a single cent.

"The farmers are a very superior race of men. Here is no swilling a gallon or six quarts of beer or cider per day whilst haymaking or harvesting, as is the case frequently in England."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. JOHN BULLARD, SOUTHPORT, RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN TERRITORY, 6TH MONTH, 1843.

"DEAR FATHER,

"While I am writing this I calculate thou will be just about receiving my letter sent from New York. Since that time I have travelled over a great extent of country, and I think I can now give thee a tolerable description of it. Most of the land in the States is of excellent quality, but I have not seen any so good and rich looking as Wisconsin; I could not have believed that land which has not been cultivated could be so clean and beautiful to look upon; its fertility is proved by the quantity it will produce, even with very rough management, and no manure, sixty bushels of wheat to the acre is mostly an average crop. Hay may be had in any quantity for cutting; the prairie land will yield three tons to the acre; the grass is much longer, but it is very sweet and makes excellent hay. Hogs, cows, and horses, cost nothing keeping in summer time. Sheep are very profitable stock to keep.

"If the American farmers would only be half as industrious as the English they might be as wealthy as any class of people in the world; they may grow, say, the lowest average amount, 50 bushels of wheat to the acre at 3s 6d per bushel, that will be £8 15s, and the cost of producing that quantity will be only at the most 20s.; so that there is a net profit of £7 15s upon every acre; most other grain will bear the same proportion. Sheep are very profitable, their wool is valuable. Horses can be bought for 20 or 30 dollars, very good ones, that is from £5 to £7 each. Milch cows with a calf, 10 to 12 dollars, or £2 to £2 10s. Butter is now worth 6d per pound, and it actually costs nothing but your trouble of making. A man may feed twenty head of cattle without being possessed of an inch of land.

"A few blankets would be needful, but beds here are cheaper and better than in England; in fact you may get anything you want quite as cheap as in England, except woollen cloth. It is expected there will be a woollen factory established at Southport next year. The people here are generally very kind to settlers, and render them all the assistance they can. We have had a good deal of rain here this week, but the corn is looking very well; it is not quite so forward as with you at this time of the year, but it ripens much quicker, so that harvest falls about the same time as yours; most of the wheat is sown in the spring. I think of getting ten acres broken up this summer or autumn, ready for wheat in the spring."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MRS. HANNAH RHODES, RACINE COUNTY,  
WISCONSIN, SEPT. 22, 1842.

"We started from New York for Albany, 100 miles, and reached it next morning; we then agreed to go on the Erie Canal, 360 miles, to Buffalo, in seven days; we then agreed to go in a steamer to Southport; it was fine sailing on the Lakes; it was about 1000 miles. When we landed at Southport they took a house till we could find a situation. There was plenty of second-hand land near Southport, but they thought it better to buy government land at five shillings per acre. They met with plenty on the Burlington road, and fixed on three lots, 80 acres each, sixteen miles from Southport. The country is beautiful pasturing for thousands of cattle. It will feed them fat in its wild state. But settlers are coming in from all parts; a great many from England, Ireland, and the Eastern States. The land is openings and clumps of trees, chiefly oak and hickory. You may put in the plough the first thing, and every thing seems to grow plentiful. We have a fine crop of potatoes, and have put in about four acres of wheat; and we have got two stacks of hay, about fifteen tons weight; our William and his father have got the whole. We have a yoke of oxen, three cows, and two calves; a good log house, twenty feet by eighteen feet within.

"I like the country well; the people are very kind and friendly, more so than in England; they are all new settlers, the oldest has not been above six or seven years. Provisions are plentiful; pork, 2 cents per lb; beef, 3c, flour 48 to 50 cents per bushel. We make our own butter, soap, and candles. We can put out money at 12 per cent, land security. I should like my father and mother, sister Mary, and Thomas, or any of my brothers or sisters to come; we could keep you on our land very well. Game is very plentiful—deer, partridge, prairie hens, and pigeons, in this part. We are all in good health. Our little John has begun to walk and talk; he is a very fine little boy. William and Thomas like the country well. Clothing is high; also pots. We have preaching every other Sabbath, but expect to have preaching every Sabbath, and a Sabbath School."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. THOS. RHODES.

"There is plenty of fruit in the woods, plums, nuts, mandrakes, wild apples, grapes, and strawberries. There is a kind of small rattlesnakes, but we think little of them, they are easy to kill. We understand there are some small wolves, but we have not seen any. There are no wild animals that will attack man."

EXTRACTS FROM THE REV. MR. BARRAY'S LETTERS, OF FORT PLAIN.

"Racine, the county seat of Racine, W.T. is a fine, flourishing village, beautifully located on lake Michigan, at the mouth of the Root river, 20 miles from Milwaukee, and 65 miles from Chicago. Its settlement, as I was told, was commenced in 1836 or '7; and it now contains between 1200 and 1400 inhabitants. It has all the requisite county edifices finished in good taste and style; three large and flourishing hotels, besides other public and boarding establishments; an academy; two churches; a printing office; twenty or more mercantile

shops; and all the various professional offices and mechanic establishments found in our eastern villages. Its private dwellings are all of them neat, and many of them elegant. Its streets are regularly laid out, the principal one of which is lined on each side with beautiful white cottages, stores, shops, and offices, for nearly a mile in extent. But there is a newness, a *primitiveness* about the whole place, and about all the towns in the 'far West,' that first strikes the eye of the visitor from this side of the lakes. Tall oaks are left standing here and there; stumps yet remain in many places, and you may see pretty residences stretching themselves far away into the forest, and surrounded with all its unshorn wildness and beauty.

"Racine is a busy town—has an enterprising and industrious population, and is fast increasing in size and importance. It is perhaps already the greatest wheat market in the territory; and the largest share of her one million surplus, will probably be shipped from its warehouses. An excellent harbour is being built at the mouth of Root river, which, when finished, will add much to the importance of Racine, as also to its growth and prosperity, making it second to none on the lake.

"At one thing I was perfectly astonished, and that was, the number of religious societies in a village of this size—of which there are seven: Universalist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist, Catholic, and Whitfieldian. Verily, one must be hard to please, if he could not suit himself with preaching here.

"Tuesday, Aug. 22nd, I set out in company with Mr. Lybrand, for Rochester, on Fox River, twenty-five miles west of Racine. Our way lay across the prairie, the greater part of the distance. All was new, delightful, and enchanting. White farm-houses and cultivated fields, dotted here and there the vast expanse. Occasionally large herds of cattle were seen cropping the herbage in the distance; flowers of every hue were blooming all around upon the unturned sod; and as we journeyed along, flocks of grouse and brant would start up before us, and now and then various small animals would dart across the road into the tall grass on the other side. The scene was picturesque and sublime beyond description; at times wild and awe-inspiring; when the vast plain stretched out beyond the horizon, with no human habitation in sight, and treeless, save patches of forest, looking like islands in the midst of the ocean.

"The prairies have a rich and productive soil, covered to a considerable depth with black sand and vegetable mould. A team, consisting of four or five yoke of oxen, is required to break them up; after this, a single yoke or a span of horses, is all that is required. They produce most crops in great abundance, though they are not considered quite as safe for wheat. Their yield, however, in this grain, the past season, was large—say thirty bushels, on an average, to the acre. A gentleman, near Southport, had a *small* field of four hundred acres, which yielded him 13,000 bushels of good wheat.

"Travelling leisurely through this delightful section of country, we reached Rochester near the middle of the afternoon. This is a small town, containing about 600 inhabitants. It has two public houses, three stores, several mechanic shops, and a large flour mill nearly completed. A short distance from here my parents, and brother, and sister reside; also my wife's mother and two brothers. Of course I paused not until I reached them.

"Immediately after crossing the Fox River, a fine broad stream, you enter the 'Oak openings.' The soil here is dry and undulating, and is composed of a sandy loam, intermixed occasionally with limestone pebbles. When first broken it has a light appearance, but soon turns black by reason of the lime in its composition. The trees, which are mostly white oak, are scattered thinly over its surface, forming natural parks, through which the wild deer roams, and where vast quantities of game are found. I think I would prefer this land above the prairies. It is as easily improved, has the advantage with respect to timber, is better watered, and will produce as much grain of all kinds. 'Although containing apparently but a thin covering of decomposed vegetable matter, the absence of that material is made up by the admixture of lime in its composition, which is favourable to vegetation; and in summer the surface is almost entirely covered with red, yellow, white, and purple flowers, which spread a gorgeous carpet as far as the eye can reach.'

"The 'Oak openings' are fast receiving a hardy and industrious population. Where but a little time ago the red man dwelt, and the wild beast roamed, the sun shines and the rain falls upon the cultivated fields, teeming with the rich fruits of the honest husbandman's toil. And the period is certainly not far distant, when every rood of this rich soil will be upturned by the busy plough, and when the hum of industry will go up in the midst of these wilds, making them glad. Already we may in more than fancy, hear

'The sound of the advancing multitude,  
Which soon shall fill these deserts. From the ground  
Comes up the laugh of children, the soft voice  
Of maidens, and the sweet and solemn hymn  
Of Sabbath worshippers. The low of herds,  
Blends with the rustling of the heavy grain,  
Over the dark brown furrows.'

"Saturday, Sept. 9th, bidding my friends adieu, I set out for Milwaukee, the emporium of Wisconsin.

"I had heard much of this place, and found that I had not been deceived in regard to it. It is situated on lake Michigan, 180 miles from Mackinaw, 90 from Chicago, and 910 miles from Buffalo. Its settlement was begun in 1836—it numbers now between six and seven thousand inhabitants, which fact exhibits a rapidity of growth not much, if any, excelled by the history of any place. There are in this village—or city as it is called—eight religious societies, six of which have churches—the Congregational, Presbyterian, Universalist, Unitarian, Methodist, and Catholic.

"As a place of business, it is not to be outdone, and its merchants, at least, are driving a profitable trade. Hundreds of emigrants are arriving here weekly, and one may find representatives from almost every nation under heaven—Germans, Poles, Swiss, Welsh, Irish, Norwegians, and the wild Indian in his paint.

"This flourishing town has many large and elegant buildings, and its hotels, for comfort and accommodations are scarcely surpassed in many of our eastern cities. Standing on Water street, and casting his eyes upon the large brick blocks which adorn it, and around upon the busy bustling crowds that throng about them, one forgets that he is in

a city scarcely eight years old. But when he is reminded of this fact, he is astonished at all he sees, and finds cause for renewed wonder at every step.

"On the afternoon of the day on which I landed, I enjoyed a ride to Southport, distant from Racine ten miles. The road winds along through the forest near the lake shore—was at that time perfectly dry and hard, with no ups and downs, free from stone, and overshadowed by the branches of the oak and linden, among whose branches the wild birds, with many toned voices, made sweet music. Need I tell you that I was delighted and in ecstasies?

"Southport is also situated on lake Michigan, ten miles above Racine; and is a fine, flourishing village, of the same number of inhabitants. It is beautifully laid out and arranged, is a place of extensive business, has a pier, or steamboat landing, and efforts are being made to obtain for it a harbour; which when obtained, will enable it to keep pace with its sister villages on the lake.

"Now for a leave-taking of Wisconsin. We found it a beautiful country—we believe it will be a *great* country—greater than it now is, when its resources are developed. It has a healthful climate, a rich, productive soil, an enterprising, industrious, and intelligent population—it possesses exalted commercial advantages, and it must advance rapidly towards wealth and prosperity. 'Seven years ago,' says a recent writer, and the 'Territory was almost a trackless wilderness. Now, flourishing towns, villages, and settlements, are sprinkled over the whole country. Roads are built, markets are at hand, all the conveniences and luxuries of life are easily and cheaply procured, the hardships incident to the first settlement of a new country are over, and the way fully open and prepared for that influx of wealth and population, which never sets toward a country perfectly new, but which in a rapidly increasing ratio pours in, as improvements are made and society formed."

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#### THE CLIMATE OF RACINE.

Having in the last number treated of the healthiness of the country, I propose in the present to speak more particularly of the climate. Racine is situated in latitude about 42 degrees north. It has been observed in all parts of the west, that the climate west of the Alleghany mountains is milder than it is in the same latitude on the Atlantic coast.

I believe that there is less snow in the winter here, less rain in the summer, and more wind throughout the year, than in the same latitude at the east; all of which, I think, may be attributed, either to the absence of mountains, or contiguity of the lakes, or both. I heard a Frenchman, who has resided in this country for the last twenty years, say, that there had scarcely ever, during that period, been more than a foot of snow upon the ground at any one time, and that during the most of the winters there had not been over six inches. That we are apt to have a long time every summer when there is but little rain, I think that the experience of all our farmers proves. Yet, owing to heavy dews, and the peculiar nature of the soil, our crops seldom suffer from drought. At the mouth of the Columbia, in Oregon, it is said that no rain falls for three or four months, in the summer season. Some have thought

that the farther you went west, the more, in this respect, the summers would resemble those of Oregon.

The country immediately upon the lake is two weeks later in vegetation than that thirty miles in the interior, and the frost in the fall affects the interior as much earlier; which is owing both to the difference of the soil and the effect of the lake. Almost every summer evening, however hot the day may have been, there is a cool lake breeze, affecting the country for a few miles back, which is very refreshing, and makes a summer's residence here delightful. The hottest part of the day, upon the lake border, is frequently at seven or eight o'clock in the morning—owing to the fact that we have at that time, in addition to the direct rays of the sun, a powerful reflection from the surface of the lake.

I believe that there is much more clear weather here throughout the year than at the east. We have a long time of it in summer; again in the fall, commencing about the first of October, and our winters are by no means stormy. I have heard two or three say, that they had worked in open air every day during several winters. The autumns of Wisconsin are noted for fine weather. I prefer this climate decidedly to the effeminating climate of the south, or to the half-and-half variable climate in the latitude of St. Louis; and, all things considered, I believe it to be as favourable as any for the physical and intellectual development of man, and as conducive to his happiness and welfare.—*Racine Advocate*, November 28, 1843.

#### THE HEALTHINESS OF WISCONSIN.

No portion of the United States, containing fertile lands, has been free from the fever and ague upon its first settlement, except Wisconsin. The whole of our territory, save two or three places, which are situated near stagnant waters, has been always entirely free from that troublesome disorder. Not one out of a hundred of our citizens has ever been afflicted with it. It is the design of this paper to give the reasons for this extraordinary healthfulness.

The fever and ague are caused, as is well known, by the miasma arising from the decomposition of large quantities of vegetable matter. Consequently, all heavy timbered, fertile lands, when first cleared, suddenly exposing a large quantity of damp and shaded vegetation to the full rays of the sun, are necessarily subject to it.

Wisconsin is a sort of elevated table-land, higher above the level of the ocean, than any State in the Union. This is shown by the fact, that that portion of our waters running south, pass through all the States upon the Mississippi; and that portion going east, passes all the States upon the lakes; hence our atmosphere is remarkably pure and clear. The horizon here appears more extended than at the east. Objects are seen so distinctly that strangers are uniformly deceived in distances. Many a footman upon the prairies, when he has seen a grove ahead where he proposed stopping for the night, imagining it to be close at hand, has been obliged to trudge many a weary step, long after the time when he supposed he should have reached his destination. The air is so clear that a man can be distinctly seen by the naked eye at the distance of six or seven miles.



Although there is not a mountain in the territory, yet the surface of our country is very rolling, and the streams, considering the general level of the land, quite rapid. As I have stood upon Rock River, and seen its waters flowing swiftly by me, I have believed that the whole country was greatly inclined to the south. There is not a marsh of any extent in this section. The little lakes which we have in the interior are all supplied by springs, and the water in them is so pure, that the pebbles at the bottom can be seen in a great depth of water.

When the prairie is ploughed the first time, the turf is turned exactly bottom upwards, and what little vegetation there is decays under ground. At certain seasons of the year, fires run over the prairies, and destroy all rank vegetation: land breezes and lake breezes are continually blowing over them, and tend greatly to keep the air pure.

If Wisconsin were compared with the eastern States, the fact of its being a prairie country alone, might be deemed a sufficient reason why the ague had not prevailed here. But when we recollect that that disease has extensively prevailed in parts of Indiana and Illinois, which are prairie countries, then we see that our more northern latitude, higher position, rolling country, and our contiguity to the lakes, are additional reasons for the healthiness of our climate.—*Racine Advocate*, Nov. 21, 1843.

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#### MONEY.

An European emigrant first coming into America changes his pounds sterling into dollars. This is a change for the better, for he gets many more dollars than he had pounds, and a dollar for many purposes in America goes quite as far as a pound sterling in England.

A cow worth fifteen pounds in England, is worth fifteen dollars in Western America. A horse worth fifty pounds in England, is worth fifty dollars in (Western) America. Land in the Old States is worth about as many dollars as it is worth pounds in England.

In the Western States land is much cheaper, clothing and labour dearer. Bread, meat, and fuel much cheaper. Taking it on an average, a dollar in America is worth as much as a pound sterling in England. Let all who think of emigrating as a last resource to a failing fortune, come out in time, and not wait until they have lost their all. By gamblers it is reckoned a desperate chance to risk the last shilling.

What an imperative duty rests upon the father of a family if he has thoughts of emigrating, to stop in time, whilst he has yet two thousand, one thousand, or five hundred pounds in his possession! How provident is his conduct who flies to a new country, not possessing the power of labour, with a large family, and without a dollar! More than senseless are his fruitless complaints that he cannot find a comfortable living when he gets there. Yet there are such!

Those who have saved a thousand pounds for investment, will find when it is turned into dollars, that it will count four thousand, four hundred, and forty-four dollars; and for all the purposes of life will go as far as many pounds in England.

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Immediately to the north of Illinois is Wisconsin, lying in a higher latitude, and a colder region. Its grand features, though differing from

those of Illinois, are varied and beautiful. It is a land chiefly of wood and water. There are prairies also in Wisconsin, but the features of peculiar beauty, are its crystal lakes, and its rivers of limpid water. Its rich resources of mineral wealth, have lately been accurately and particularly described in the report of Dr. David Dale Owen, describing a district of Iowa, Wisconsin, and a small part of Illinois, which he has lately explored and surveyed, under the direction of the general government. The vast amount and variety of the minerals of this region are most surprising. This will be seen even from the brief and detached extracts from the letter of the commissioner of the General Land Office, and the report itself, which now follows :

## DR. OWEN'S REPORT.

R. H. Doc. No. 230.

26, Congress, 1st Sept.

"The country examined by Dr. Owen, embraces an extent of eleven thousand square miles, which he represents to be one of the richest mineral regions, (compared to its extent) *yet known in the world*. From the statistics of this report, it appears that all Europe produces 131,700,000 lbs of lead per annum, of which amount, Great Britain alone furnishes about three-fourths; that this part of the lead region of the United States, produced, under all present disadvantages in working the mines, arising from want of sufficient capital and adequate machinery, *thirty millions* of pounds of lead in the year 1880, but is capable of producing annually, *one hundred and fifty millions of pounds*; and furnishing employment to ten thousand miners." See page 3.

"Some general idea of the purity of the copper ore of Wisconsin, may be derived from the fact mentioned by Dr. Owen, that it yields from one fifteenth to one third more than the celebrated mines of Cornwall, England." Page 4.

"It will be seen that Dr. Owen, in his analysis of the soils of the district of country explored, reports as the result, that he knows of no country in the world with similar mineral resources, which can lay claim to a soil as fertile, and as well adapted to the essential purposes of agriculture." Page 5.

"Sir,

"I have the pleasure of transmitting to you by this post, my Report on the mineral lands of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Northern Illinois, with the accompanying document completed. In doing so, permit me to invite the attention of the department, to some of the principal results embodied therein.

"I. An inspection of the chapter on the Geological character, and on the Lead Mines, of the surveyed district, will show its close resemblance, both in the character of its rocks, and in its geological position, to the celebrated mining district of the North of England, the most productive lead region in the known world.

"II. The chapter on "Statistics of the Lead Mines," affords proof, that even under the numerous disadvantages to which this American lead region has hitherto been subjected, it probably produces at this moment, nearly as much lead as the whole of Europe, with the exception of Great Britain alone, and that it has indisputable capabilities of producing as much lead as all Europe, Great Britain included.

" III. The chapter on " Copper Ore," and the appended analysis, prove, that the copper ore of Wisconsin, is richer, and more valuable, than the copper ore of Cornwall, the greatest copper district in Europe, or the world, exceeding that ore in its yield, from *one fifteenth to one third*, and that this ore is found in abundance, and can be raised with the same expense as lead ore.

" IV. That zinc is also abundant, and the zinc ores of excellent quality. Thus the materials for the manufacture of brass, exist in profusion over the district.

" V. That iron ores equal in quality to the Tennessee ores, are found throughout the district in such quantity, that iron works to any desirable extent, might profitably be established there, and upon the whole, that the district surveyed, is one of the richest mineral regions, compared to its extent, yet known in the world.

" The chapter on " Soils " also shows, that, unlike most other mineral regions, it is fertile, and capable of yielding the farmer a liberal return for his labour. See pages 6 and 7.

" The district of territory which has been explored, lies nearly in equal portions on both sides of the Mississippi River, between lat. 41 and 43 degrees, commencing at the mouth of Rock River, and extending thence North, upwards of 100 miles, to the Wisconsin river, which discharges itself into the Mississippi, immediately below Prairie du Chein. The average width of this body of land exceeds 100 miles. It comprehends about 11,000 square miles, equalling in extent the state of Maryland. Page 13.

" It appears, then, that the North of England lead district produces *one third* of all the lead obtained in Europe. It is confessedly the richest lead region in the world, unless the Wisconsin lead region may rival and surpass it. I have for this reason sought up with care the materials, and here submitted them, for a comparison between the geological formation of that favoured mineral region in the old world, and that not less favoured, perhaps, to which in the western portion of the New World, my instructions have directed my attention. Page 24.

" This lead region lies, as will be remarked, chiefly in Wisconsin, including however, a strip of about eight townships of land in Iowa, along the western branch of the Mississippi, the greatest width of which strip is on the little Mekoqueta, about twelve miles from east to west, and including also about ten townships in the north western corner of Illinois. The portion of this lead region in Wisconsin, includes about 62 townships. The entire lead region, then, comprehends about 80 townships, or 2880 square miles, being about one-third longer than the state of Delaware. The extreme length of this lead region, from east to west, is 87 miles, and its greatest width, from north to south, is 54 miles. Page 26.

" From a spot of ground, not more than fifty square yards, upwards of three millions of pounds of ore have been raised. A drift in Major Gray's diggings Mineral Point, in a crevice of twelve feet wide, was filled in with clay and ore. When I was there, nine cubic yards only of the contents of this crevice had been excavated, and out of that amount of excavated clay and ore, thirty-four thousand pound of ore had been obtained. Page 86.

" The copper ore of Wisconsin territory forms an item in its mineral

wealth which would be considered of great importance, and would attract much attention, but for the superior richness and value of lead, the great staple of the territory. Page 39.

"*Zinc Ore.*—This ore, found both in Iowa and Wisconsin, occurs in the fissures along with lead. It is chiefly the electric *calamine*, the carbonate of zinc of the mineralogist. Though a solid ore, it has an ochreous earthy aspect, often resembling the cellular substance of bone; hence it is familiarly known among miners, by the name of 'dry bones.' Page 48.

"The coal in this vicinity is sure to become valuable, and to be in great demand, for the reduction of such ores (especially copper ores,) as are raised in those portions of the district which are deficient in timber. Some town in this neighbourhood, or a little farther south, is destined to become the Swansea of Wisconsin, and to receive in all its numerous furnaces, the rich produce of the prairie mines from the North, and North west." Page 45.

PRICES OF PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS, &c.

From the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 9, 1844.

PRODUCE.		PROVISIONS.	
	Dols. Cents.		Dols. Cents.
Flour, bbl	3,50	Pork, cwt.	4 to 5,00
Wheat, win. bush.	60 to 62½	Beef, "	2,50 to 3,00
Corn, shell'd "	50	Butter, pound	16
Corn meal "	63	Cheese "	6 to 8
Barley, "	44	Chickens, doz.	1,50
Oats, "	37	Eggs, "	12½
Hay, ton	8,00	Potatoes, bush.	37½
Wood, cord	1,50	Beans, .....	1,50
Coal, bush	6½	Salt, .....	2,00
Hides, green, lb	2½	Apples, dried, bush.	2,00
" dry "	5	Peaches, " "	3,00

WISCONSIN EXPORTS.

The following letter gives probably a correct statement of the amount of business done at Galena, Illinois. It should be borne in mind, however, that nearly all of the lead taken to Galena is from Wisconsin and needs but a railroad from the Mississippi to Lake Michigan, to change its course to New York, via the lakes and Erie Canal:—

GALENA, Illinois, Jan. 25, 1844.

ILLINOIS—THE LEAD TRADE.—Mr. William Hempstead, an extensive merchant and dealer of lead of this city, has furnished to the editor of the *Missouri Republican* a statement of the shipments of lead from Galena, and all other points on the Upper Mississippi, for the years 1841, 1842, and 1843. It appears by that statement that there was shipped

In the year 1841	463,404	Pigs of Lead.
" 1842	473,099	"
" 1843	584,131	"

The statement shows an actual increase in the shipments of 1843 over those of 1842, of one hundred and ten thousand four hundred and thirty-two pigs.

The number of steamboat arrivals at Galena

In 1841 was 143	No. of Keel Boats towed was 108
" 1842 " 105	" " 88
" 1843 " 244	" " 55

The steamboat arrivals show an increase in 1843 of forty-nine over those of 1842.

The amount of lead shipped from Galena in 1843 may be set down at 563,731 pigs, averaging 70 pounds each, making 39,461,170 lbs, which, at 2,37½ dollars per cwt, would be 937,202 dollars.

The amount of copper made at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and shipped from Galena during the year 1843, was fourteen hundred pigs, equal to ninety-five thousand pounds, worth 11,000 dollars.

The value of lead exported from here in 1843 was 937,202 dollars.

The value of copper " " 11,000 "

Making the exports of lead and copper..... 948,202 dollars.

The foregoing statement shows the increasing value of the lead and copper trade, and evinces the great importance of Galena as a commercial point. It is supposed that our population has doubled since 1840.

#### GROWTH OF WISCONSIN.

Eight years ago the actual settlement of Wisconsin may be said to have commenced. The whole population did not exceed ten thousand souls in 1830. At the lowest estimate it now contains seventy thousand inhabitants, and is increasing at the rate of twenty thousand per annum. In 1843 the exports from the territory was estimated at 200,000 dollars; taxable property, 16,000,000 dollars. By the census of 1840 it appeared that Wisconsin supported a greater number of professional men, in proportion to her population, than any of the States. The proportion of newspapers which she supports is still greater. In 1843 she paid into the Post Office Department 3000 dollars over and above all the expenses of supporting Post Offices and carrying the mails within her limits. In Wisconsin, says the Racine Advocate, all kinds of labour find a rich reward, and capital a profitable investment. Every citizen has the strongest inducements to make improvements, which he is continually doing, and thus adding to the wealth of the community.—*New York Sun*, May 28, 1844.

#### SHEBOYGAN.

*From the Green Bay Republican.*

This beautiful town is located at the mouth of the Sheboygan river, upon the west shore of the Lake Michigan, about fifty miles north of Milwaukee, and sixty-five south of Green Bay. The great natural advantages of the place, together with its beautiful location, attracted the attention of the speculators of 1835 and '36, when the town site was purchased by a company, and a settlement commenced in 1836. But owing to the depression in business which shortly followed, the proprietors became embarrassed, and were unable to carry out their plans, and the place was for a time deserted. A division has, however, been made of the town property; a part of it has changed hands, and the place has taken a new start. People are fast coming in. There is now a good ta-

vern and store in the place, and another large store will be opened in a short time. A school is kept about six months in each year, and they have regular meetings on the Sabbath.

Timber has been got out the past winter for a pier or bridge into the lake, similar to that at Milwaukee, which will be built and completed by the opening of navigation. About 1000 cords of wood are cut, for the purpose of wooding steamboats the coming summer, and a large number of men are still employed in getting out wood. The country in the vicinity of this place is well timbered and well watered—free from swamps and marshes, and the soil is of an excellent quality, producing, where settlements have commenced, large crops of all kinds of vegetables and grain. In the rear of the timbered lands commences a beautiful and healthy open country, of a rich and luxurious soil, conveniently interspersed with timber, prairie, and water. This open tract of country extends nearly the whole distance around lake Winnebago, and along the Fox River to the Portage of the Wisconsin, and down the Wisconsin to the Mississippi. A passable wagon road is opened from Sheboygan westward, through this whole extent of country, so that emigrants who land at Sheboygan can transport lumber and goods at a small expense to any part of it. This whole region of country, which, for natural beauty and resource is unsurpassed, has just commenced being settled, and the land, as yet a great part of it in the hands of the government, to be bought at *one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre*.

Sheboygan will, without doubt, be the shipping port for this whole region, as its river is on the main track of steamboat navigation, capable of being made a good harbour; and a railroad of 35 miles in length (over a tract of country so level that it would require but little grading) would reach lake Winnebago, and from there is a good water communication with the Mississippi, excepting only a mile and a quarter at the Portage. A small steamboat is being built at Manchester to run upon lake Winnebago and up the Fox River to the Portage; and steamboats now run from the Mississippi up the Wisconsin to the Portage. Then, all that is now wanting is, a railroad, 35 miles in length, from Sheboygan to Fond du Lac, or Manchester, and we should have a direct conveyance to the Mississippi. This could be done at a small expense, and there can be no doubt but it will be completed in a few years. Sheboygan, then, is the place for emigrants to land during the coming summer, as they can be landed as safe and cheap here as at any other port on the lake, and they will find as good, or better locations for farms, either *timber, prairie, or openings*. Mechanics and labourers will find plenty of employment, and lots can be bought very low in the town by their wishing to build.

At Sheboygan Falls, (five miles from the lake) is one of the best water powers in the territory. There is now in operation a saw and grist mill, shingle and lath mill; and another saw and flour mill will be built during the coming summer. At this place is manufactured about 500,000 feet of lumber yearly, and shingles and lath in proportion. There is also another mill, two and a half miles from the mouth of the river, which makes about the same quantity of lumber; and all the materials for building can easily be obtained, and at a very low price. With all these advantages and facilities for building, Sheboygan must soon become a large town; and there is now no place in the west offering

greater inducements to settlers; and I would advise all who are coming west to find new homes, and to give this place a call.

March 5th, 1844.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED MILWAUKEE, W. T. SEPT. 11, 1843.

*From the Democratic Sentinel, Allegheny City, Paper.*

MY DEAR SIR,—You have heard much of this territory and of Northern Wisconsin. To those who are partial to a northern latitude this region must be a most acceptable residence. It has much to commend it—a healthy climate, a rich and productive soil, an industrious and virtuous population, and a proximity to the northern and eastern markets. In northern Illinois and through this territory the ordinary diseases of a new country do not prevail to any extent. The lake and prairie winds—although the latter in winter are bleak, and the former in the spring are cold and unpleasant till June—are healthful and purifying. To preserve, indeed to improve health here, is only necessary to avoid the dampness of the night air, and to guard against the frequent changes in the temperature of the atmosphere.

The soil and climate are admirably adapted to the cultivation of wheat. Northern Illinois and the southern part of this territory are destined to be the greatest wheat country in the world, not only as to the amount, but the certainty of production. It is now a beautiful sight—the prairie invaded by the golden and waving wheat field, that is destined soon to convert the almost boundless extent of prairie into one great and inexhaustible mine of wheat.

The population is remarkably good. Many foreigners of good habits and some means, are making this country their home. They land in companies of from one to three and four hundred. Many settlers from New York and New England are daily arriving. Many families are now to be found in this region, who lived in affluence in the east, who have saved from the wreck of their estates enough to secure farms and a little stock, living very comfortable and well contented, finding more true and real enjoyment on the banks of Rock River, or of one of the beautiful inland lakes, than in the glitter and show of Broadway. A friend informed me the other day, that he knew at least thirty, probably forty citizens of this county, now cultivating their farms, who had received a collegiate education in the east. For a new country the society is remarkably good, and this is so for one or two obvious reasons that I may give you at some other time.

You would be surprised to find the society of this place and Chicago so good. Both places are improving rapidly and in a short time will rank as the richest and most prosperous towns on the lakes.

Wisconsin will be a great state. The elements of its greatness are rapidly developing their means and increasing.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOVERNOR DODGE.

Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, in writing of that portion of the country, says, "Having resided within 40 miles of the four lakes for several

years, and being intimately acquainted with the country, I have no hesitation in saying, that the territory of Wisconsin unites more advantages than any part of the United States or territories. The fertility of the soil of the country, its abounding in lead, iron, and copper, the salubrity of the climate, added to the advantages resulting from the navigation of the Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Rock rivers, present an extensive field for the capitalist; as well as to the enterprising and industrious who may emigrate to that country."

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. G. W. FEATHERSTONHOUGH.

A letter from G. W. Featherstonhough, Esq., U.S. Geologist, dated in April, says, "I have never seen a country of such extraordinary mineral value, embracing at the same time such a general fertility of soil, a very great portion of which is of the first agricultural quality. I believe that the salubrity of the country aids in justifying the expression, that it will soon become one of the most flourishing and happy portions of the United States."

Mr. F. in another place says, "But no assertion can do justice to the surprising fertility of the soil; capable of raising any thing and every thing susceptible of cultivation, with the least degree of expense; cold in the long winter, but dry and salubrious throughout the year, and designed to become a populous and powerful country, despite the frauds and misrepresentations which now bring it into discredit. Who would have thought that brokers, speculators, and sharpers could already have done so much to stigmatize the character of one of the finest domains that nature ever offered to man."

The lands bordering on the Wisconsin river are exceedingly rich, combining all the advantages of a rich and fruitful soil, a healthy and temperate climate, a fine navigable river, groves of excellent timber, together with many of the most useful and important minerals. The wash of the Bluff enriches the plain below to such an extent, that the depth of the soil in some places is almost incredible. On such a soil, under proper cultivation, 100 bushels of corn, or 40 bushels of wheat to the acre, can be raised with facility. With the most careless kind of cultivation, where the farmer does not think of applying the hoe after planting, the average corn crop is 60 to 75 bushels per acre.

PROFITABLE FARMING.

The Utica Gazette states that a person purchased 620 acres of land in Wisconsin, at 2 dollars per acre, making 1,250 dollars. He paid for breaking it up and sowing, 2 dollars an acre; and for fencing it 1000 dollars. His seed cost him about 1000 dollars more; so that the whole expense was about 4,500 dollars. From this he realised, the first year, 35 bushels to the acre; average, which is 21,700 bushels, worth at least 50 cents above the expense of harvesting. This will amount to 10,850 dollars; or, in other words, he will pay for his land, getting it under and enclosing, and all expenses, and have rising of 6,000 dollars, or £1200 nett profit.—*Wisconsin Democrat*, Nov. 16, 1843.



## BRITISH TEMPERANCE EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

*From the Milwaukee Democrat, Nov. 8, 1843.*

We had the pleasure of meeting the agent of this Society during the past week, and have been favoured by him with two small pamphlets published by the Committee of the Society in Liverpool. One pamphlet contains the "Rules and Regulations of the Society," which was formed in December, 1842, "to raise a fund by weekly contributions from each member, according to the number of shares he or she may hold, to purchase in the territory of Wisconsin, in the United States of America, eighty acres of good land, to build on each lot a house, and to supply goods altogether of the value of £40, in respect of one share, for each member emigrating.

"2d. To enable those members who wish to emigrate to the Society's estates, to do so at the least possible expense, as soon as they shall have been allotted, or paid a certain sum of money into the Society's funds."

The other pamphlet is entitled "The Emigrant's Instructor to Wisconsin," &c. and contains a plain statement of facts for the benefit of those designing to emigrate to this territory. We make a few extracts from letters written by men who have made the experiment of living in Wisconsin. A Mr. Cole, an Englishman, residing near Racine, says:

"This country is as handsome in appearance as any part I have seen in England. I purchased eighty acres, and the whole of my taxes do not amount to more than seven shillings a year (including school tax; ) no poor rates nor any wanted; no policemen lurking about your peaceable homes, inquiring what you have got in your pot for dinner, nor is there any need of them. I have seen no sickness these two years I have been here, from the effects of the climate, (very different to the parts I have seen) from its being such a fine, open, hill-and-dale country; no long levels, or stagnant water which causes every kind of sickness in America. You will probably think I am speaking very flatteringly of this country, but indeed I am not. I declare I have no interest in the world in giving an untrue statement. I have no lands for sale, and am confident if no person comes here from England the lands will all be very soon bought and settled upon. I am truly thankful to Providence that directed me to this country, and I never wish to leave it."

A Mr. Sadler, writing from here to his brother, near Manchester, England, says:

"If you can make out to get here, and it takes the last penny you have, do not be afraid to come. I know it will be the best thing you ever did, or ever can do, for yourself and family. They will be sure to have enough to eat, and you can give them a good education, so that they will be a blessing to you; and instead of being wretched, care-worn objects, toiling for everlasting to obtain a miserable sustenance, they will be free, enlightened, and independent citizens of this glorious and happy republic. You must not think a man can live without industry, or that he can make much progress without economy, and constantly endeavouring; but if he does so, he is sure to obtain a reasonable share of the good things of this world."

The agent informs us that the Society is rapidly increasing, and that probably one thousand families will come out in the course of a few

years. We heartily rejoice in the prospect of this accession to our territory. A beneficent Providence has provided a broad and rich country which insures a bountiful return for the labour of man. Our institutions invite the common family of man to avail themselves of these blessings, and to enjoy the privileges of a government which guarantees to every man the possession and enjoyment of the fruits of his labour. We rejoice that there is room in the glorious west, for all the industrious classes of the old world, whose institutions preclude the possibility of their ever rising above the condition in which they are born, and which makes them the dependents and bondmen of monopolised wealth. We rejoice that here they may become "lords of their own manor," that they may here "sit in peace under their own vine and fig-tree, with none to molest or make them afraid." We rejoice "that Wisconsin holds out more flattering prospects to labourers, and immigrants of all classes, than any other place in the known world." Here, temperance, virtue and industry, are destined to work out as great an amount of happiness as can fall to the lot of the human family.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MRS. RHODES, WISCONSIN, JANUARY 1, 1844.

DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER,

You are aware that when we left England we intended going to Canada; but we did not like the thoughts of a Canadian winter. We conversed with many intelligent people, both from England and America, who had travelled in both places, and they all gave the preference to the territories of the United States. We also met with a Mr. Wilson, who has come out to Wisconsin to purchase land for a Society, called the British Temperance Emigration Society, of which you will have heard, and my husband engaged to go with him to build houses ready for the members to come out in the spring. There is one coming from Leeds; but we do not know the name, as that is kept from Mr. Wilson to prevent any partiality. If you could get to know you might write by them. I should think those will be able to tell you who have joined the Society. We shall have eighty acres of land, and go upon it the first year by pre-emption, and then throw it into the Society in the spring, when the rest do.

He has engaged for a dollar per day during the winter months, and that I consider better than going to Toronto at hap-hazard. I feel no doubt but Providence has directed our path. We are now lodging at a farm log-house. When the family came here four years ago they had not a penny, and now they have got 100 acres of land, and a good log house and barn. They are in fact in the midst of plenty.

Messrs. Wilson, Rhodes and Ray, and an American joiner, have gone out this day, the 1st of 1844, to build Mr. Wilson a log shanty, that is, a temporary house; therefore I hope we shall remember the anniversary of this day with feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness, as a day when we could say we had once more a home, though ever so homely. We live together until we can build better. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ray, and we have lived together in Milwaukee. When we landed in the territory of Wisconsin, thirteen English people of ours accidentally met on the lakes, and took a house in Milwaukee. The rents and lodgings are very high:

we paid eleven dollars per month; and fire wood is high; so we all lived together till we could look round and settle ourselves. Some of them bought land in the thick woods round Milwaukee, and gave ten shillings per acre, they will not clear it in their life time. But Mr. Wilson made a tour through the territory to find the most eligible situation, and I think it one of the most beautiful valleys I ever saw; I have seen a great deal of beautiful scenery, but I never saw any thing like this in its natural state. It is a beautiful prairie in a valley fifteen miles in length, surrounded by towering rocks and deep ravines, and here and there clumps of trees giving it the appearance of a gentleman's park. In fact few can vie with it. Rhodes is so delighted with it that he says he thinks he could live and die in it, which is a great satisfaction to my mind, to think that my feet have once more found a resting place, though I have been driven by misfortune far from the land of my birth, and the society of my early friends. We are now 5,000 miles off each other, yet though you cannot see me with your bodily eye, yet the same sun gives us light by day, and the same beneficent Lord gives us light by night; and the same All Wise can hear and protect us in this secluded valley, and hear and answer our prayers. I can never think of home without a tear, but particularly when I picture to myself my farewell to my dear mother; it touches a tender string. I have often seen sister Sarah and her in my dreams. But I must not give way to my feelings, for I think, upon the whole, it is all for the best, for God is "too wise to err, and too good to be unkind," and often "behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face."

— We landed in Milwaukee on the Sunday of the 28th of November, at 7 o'clock; the wind had changed, and the Captain wished to make Chicago, in Illinois; we were consequently obliged to go on shore and seek lodgings that night, and a bitter night it was; thirteen of us went to one lodging, and the next morning took the house I mentioned. Rhodes got work the same week at a dollar per day, and provisions were very cheap and good; and our funds being low it suited very well indeed. It was very providential, for he was the only one that got steady work and got well paid in cash. He worked for a man from Westmorland; he had just work to last him till a few days before Mr. Wilson came over; and then we had marching orders. We started on the Wednesday before Christmas, and arrived there, a distance of 110 miles, on the Wednesday following, travelling Christmas day and Sunday. I shall ever remember the year 1843—it has been an eventful era of my life.

We have plenty of venison—it is a very good meat. The house they are building will be five miles from any other at present; but in the spring fifteen families are coming from England, and they will each have a good log-house to come to, and five acres of land fenced and ploughed ready, and then we shall have neighbours. We shall be presidents over our own eighty acres, and in ten years it will be our own, and no landlord can turn us out, or receive our rent. Our journey has been toilsome, but I have no doubt we shall reap our reward.

I have had the opportunity of seeing Mrs. and Mr. Wilson, for I have shut the doors [or resided] with them, and I believe them to be strictly upright, conscientious people. I believe Mr. Wilson every way competent to carry out the scheme. I am sure he has the comfort and welfare of the members at heart; and after the first lot has come, I have no doubt but

we shall be a strong body, and hold a respectable rank in society. Mr. Wilson and we are the pioneers who have braved the wild woods of America first, to pave a smoother tract for those who may come here after.

There are the wild plum, apple, raspberry, strawberry, gooseberry, cranberry, and nuts in plenty. The pigs and cows cost them nothing for they run in the woods till they are fat, and they first shoot them and then stick them; they are almost as wild as deer; the landlord we lodge with is killing six fat pigs to day which have been in the woods three months, and I never saw more beautiful pork in England; upon an average they will weigh fifteen stone. Last year they killed thirty of their own breeding without costing them one cent. We had as beautiful beef in Milwaukee as I ever saw in England, at 2d. per pound, and taken right out of the woods, and killed. The prairie bog is so full of nutritious herbage, that the pigs will pick it out and eat it. Where we lodge, we have three dishes of meat three times a day, and have generally the house filled with travellers every night, and the barn with horses; and provisions being so cheap, it is a profitable business; and every house is a tavern, for they have no signs. A house is a traveller's beacon; where they see a house, thither they repair; they charge high, and provisions cost little.

If you can make out the people who are coming in spring, I should feel obliged to you if you could send Mrs. Wilson and me each a pound of white thread, (for tape and thread, and smallwares of all kinds are dear,) and I will pay you for it.

Furniture is very dear, and we have got a good deal of our things destroyed with travelling so far; but we cannot complain; for when I look back, I think we have great reason to be thankful that we are spared, after all the dangers we have passed through. I am in pretty good health, and I have been borne up wonderfully in spirits, though there is not a day passes over our heads, neither R.'s nor mine, but we think of you. He is getting quite fat—I never saw him look so well in his life. He joins me in kind love to you, and all brothers and sisters. There are some whose kindness and sympathy I shall ever remember with feelings of gratitude, and if ever it lies in my power to return it, I shall feel happy at the opportunity; but I conclude with wishing you a happy new year.

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### LETTER FROM MR. WILSON.

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*Goraville, near Madison, Wisconsin Territory,*

*April 22nd, 1844.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LIVERPOOL MERCURY.

GENTLEMEN,—Observing a letter, signed "J. Rose," published in your paper of the 16th of February, 1844, decidedly against emigration to Wisconsin, and intending to stay the progress of the British Temperance Emigration Society, and thereby prevent its members bettering their condition, as well as the working classes of England generally. I therefore think it my duty, (notwithstanding Mr. Gorst's reply), to answer and refute such calumnies against this fine country.

And, in order that the public may judge of my opportunities and experience to do so, I will tell them how long I have been in the territory, and the circumstances I have been placed in, to make observations and collect correct information. I landed at Milwaukee in the last week of October, 1843, as agent to the British Temperance Emigration Society, and in the months of November and December last travelled on horseback through twelve counties, a distance of not less than one thousand miles, in search of a suitable location for the society. I thereby had a good opportunity of seeing the country, and observing the circumstances of the farmers; and since my settling at Gorstville business has caused me to travel the country for fifty miles round, and I find nothing but a confirmation of my former information and observations.

First—Mr. Rose says that “the letters published in the *Emigrant's Instructor*, signed by J. Cole, are fictitious; that a person had received money from intended emigrants to purchase land for them; but on their arrival at Racine, they could find neither Mr. Cole, money, or land.” Now, Sir, on my arrival at Racine, in November last, I soon found the person who wrote those letters, signing them “J. Cole,” instead of his own name, and that person is no other than Marshall M. Strong, Esq., of Racine, and now President of the Legislative Council of the territory. He wrote the letters and signed “J. Cole,” and does not deny them, and gives as a reason for not signing his own name, the annoyance he would have been subject to, with letters and emigrants from England. And with respect to his “receiving money from intended emigrants,” &c. I know no farther than that I myself sent him money, through the house of Brown, Shipley & Co. of Chapel-street, Liverpool, in May, 1842, to purchase a farm for a friend of mine, whose engagements prevented him from emigrating for at least three years, and on my arrival at Racine I found no difficulty in finding the person who wrote Cole's letters. He sent a person to show me the land he had purchased, and I found it according to the government deeds, all right. I afterwards called at the land office, and they told me the deed was original.

He next complains of the poverty of the country, and compares the animals of the forest, and the fowls of the air, as being in equal circumstances with the Wisconsin farmer, and says “that many Americans who went to Wisconsin five, six, or seven years ago, are still living in *miserable log houses*—no barn, no stable, no cowhouse, or pigstye, no garden, and but little improvement; themselves, wives, and children, clad in rags, and many of them barefoot.” When this passage was read, there were ten English and one American present, and they all exclaimed with one voice, “That's a lie!” And I must say, it is not true. I live in a log house, and hope to do so for at least the next seven years; and what Mr. Rose calls miserable log houses, I do assure you are much more comfortable than the old down-coming mud farm houses in England. I must acknowledge that farmers in Wisconsin often live in log houses for three, four, or five years after entering on their farms, for all experienced and industrious settlers have a system in making their improvements. They first build a log house as cheap as possible; then dig a well; then break up and fence in as much land as is prudent; then build a good frame barn; then a stable; then a cow house and other out-buildings; and last, a house for themselves. Now, a man cannot do all this in a day, or a year; especially without a capital. In my travels it was com-

mon to see a farmer have a good frame barn to house his grain in, and himself and cattle sheltered in what Mr. Rose calls "miserable log houses."

To show what industry will do in this country, I will instance one case out of a many that have come to my knowledge. Mr. John Thomas, of Cross Plains, Deane County, near Madison, who immigrated to this country from the state of Ohio, four years ago. He arrived on the plains with less than one dollar in money, and no goods but his beds; with a wife and two children. He hired himself to a farmer for a short time, and then squatted on a piece of land, and claimed it for his own; built on it a log house, and by perseverance and industry went from less to more; and now he owns 240 acres of land, all paid for, three horses, four cows, about twenty hogs, and about twelve head of cattle, besides a great quantity of fowls, turkeys, &c. He has about 100 acres of his land fenced and improved, a good frame barn, stable, &c., but himself in his original "MISERABLE" log house.

I could give you many more cases, if I had room, but I give you in this both name and address, so that you, Mr. Rose, or any of your readers, may investigate the truth of it.

Mr. Rose next speaks of the coldness of the country, long and severe winters, changeableness of the weather, &c. The winter of 1843 was the longest winter there had been in Wisconsin of twenty years, from Indian information, and that only continued for five months; and the winter here has been as short, setting in about the middle of December and breaking up about the middle of February, continuing only two months. And with respect to the severity of the cold, it is sufficient to tell you, that I, three men, Mrs. Wilson, and another female, were encamped, with nothing to keep the storm, frost, &c. from us but a common tent cloth, on an open prairie, several miles from any house, from the first to the sixteenth of January last, and during our confinement the thermometer sunk lower than it had done all winter. The winters are certainly colder here than in England; but it is a dry, bracing coldness, not that damp, relaxing cold you have in the old country. And the fall of the year in this country is beautiful and fine; as a proof, last November, during my land-seeking journey, I had several times to sleep out in the woods, in the open air, having nothing more than my buffalo robe rolled round me, and I must say I slept warm and comfortable. And as for the spring, it is not half so changeable as in England; as a proof of which, the very same paper that contains Mr. Rose's letter, states, that in one day you had all the seasons of the year. The weather here has been very settled for the last two months, fine and warm, with a clear atmosphere, with showers of rain at intervals; with the exception of about two weeks in March, which were rather changeable.

With respect to wild beasts and snakes, there are nothing but a few small wolves, which are much more afraid of man than man is of them; as a proof, we never could get near enough to shoot but one, and that at a distance of 150 yards, with a rifle. As to snakes, there are certainly a few; and so there are in England. Here they are chiefly small garter snakes, which are perfectly harmless. What rattle snakes there are, the people think nothing about them, for it is very seldom any person gets stung, (they always rattle previous to striking) and if they do sting, we have got a weed that is a certain cure; but both wolves and snakes disappear as settlements increase.

He also speaks of a want of wood and water. There never could be a better watered country than Wisconsin, for it abounds from east to west, and from north to south, with small rivers and creeks, at but short distances. And water can be got in the highest prairie, by digging about thirty feet at most. And as for wood, the north and east parts have over much for a farmer; and about fifty miles square on the southwest part of the territory is the only part where there is not an abundance; and even there the farmers find sufficient amongst the bluffs.

With respect to sickness there are no new countries that are not subject to fever and ague. And even Wisconsin, new as it is, is not so subject to that malady as the Lincolnshire marshes and fens, where I was raised, and have been a victim.

And as to the price of produce, wheat, flour, and pork, are always as good as cash, especially in the western part of the territory. Pork is now 4d, beef 3d, sugar 7d, coffee 10d, tea 4s, per pound. Potatoes 1s 6d per bushel, and it is a great favour to get them.

Mr. Rose says, "the greatest trouble is the want of money, and the unsafe state of the paper currency." There is nothing proves his want of observation and knowledge of this country more than his last assertion, for in travelling through Wisconsin you lose sight of all paper money, for the people will not receive it. All the money there is in circulation is gold and silver, and that, though in small quantity, remains longer with the Wisconsin farmer than with the English. And again, their not being able to pay taxes I suppose he has taken from the notices at Racine, announcing certain tracts of land to be sold for taxes, which chiefly belong to speculators and not settlers.

I think, Sir, I have answered everything worth notice, the truth of which I am willing to have investigated. I shall conclude by saying, that Wisconsin is a fine healthy country, the surface of which is rolling, situated in a fine healthy climate, with a fertile soil; that a poor man, with no money, (for a man with but a small capital can do much better in Wisconsin than in England,) if he is but industrious, and does not neglect his farm to go a hunting; there being plenty of game and no game laws causes many to hunt, and neglect their farms. Yet it is a great privilege when duly appreciated; as, for instance, yesterday being no working day, three of the people working on the estate, took their guns and went a shooting. They were out about four hours, and brought home pigeons, snipes, ducks, squirrels, and a fine turkey; the latter we had roasted to day, out of which eight of us dined, and we had enough, and some to spare for tea.

With this I conclude by saying, that the letters published in the Emigrant's Instructor, and signed "J. Cole," are a good and true description of Wisconsin, generally speaking, a proof of which I here annex an opinion, signed by thirteen persons, all of whom have travelled some distance in the country, and have read the Emigrant's Instructor, and especially Cole's Letters, also that of Mr. Rose; but the opinion speaks for itself.

Hoping you will do the Society justice, and publish this as soon after receipt as possible, and let the public judge for themselves between us and Mr. Rose.—I am yours respectfully,

CHARLES WILSON,  
Agent to the British Temperance Emigration Society.

*Note.*—It will be observed that the opinion below is signed by four Americans, all farmers, two of them living about twenty miles from Gorstville, who were on business when I wrote this letter, and wished to testify to the truth of it. They all emigrated from the older states, not less than three years since, and therefore have had some experience in this country; the other nine are English people who left England the last year, farmers, stonemasons, joiners and blacksmiths.

We, the undersigned, have read a letter published in the Liverpool Mercury, of 16th February, 1844, signed "J. Rose," and from our own experience and observations in this country, (Wisconsin), having travelled through five or six counties, a distance of between two and three hundred miles, believe Mr. Rose to be altogether wrong in his description of Wisconsin, with the exception of the average price of wheat. We also have read the letters published in the Emigrant's Instructor, signed "John Cole," and believe them generally to be true, with the exception of his prices for wheat, and he saying that farmers in this country (Wisconsin) can have the same comforts as an English farmer a few miles from a town, which cannot be had in any new country. It is our opinion that Wisconsin is a healthy country, well watered and wooded, and in the greater part of it plenty of stone and minerals; that a poor man may do much better in Wisconsin than in England, and in many cases raise himself to a wealthy farmer.

CHARLES HART, late Farmer in Lincolnshire.

JOHN WHEATLEY, late Blacksmith in Lincolnshire.

JAMES SMITH, late Farmer in Yorkshire.

JOHN HOLMES, Englishman.

J. RHODES, Englishman.

HANSON CULALL, American.

ALFRED SENIER, Englishman.

JAMES HOWELL, American.

ARAD GROVER, American.

JOHN WRAY, Englishman.

ELIZABETH WILSON, English.

SOPHIA RHODES, English.

C. W. ROLKWELL, American.

Since writing the above I have met with two old settlers, one of 18 and the other of 16 years residence in Wisconsin. Mr. Gear is a farmer whom I met with returning from Mineral Point, where he had been summoned on the grand jury, and who states, as a proof of the healthiness of the country, that he lived at Alton, in Madison county, Illinois, for eight years previous to his residence in Wisconsin, with a wife and five children; that his doctor's bill while in Illinois was more than 1600 dollars, while in Wisconsin, eighteen years, with a wife and nine children, his doctor's bill did not amount to 50 dollars. Mr. Chas. Brackan is in the copper mining business, and resides at Mineral Point.

We, the undersigned, have seen Mr. Wilson's reply to Mr. Rose, and also the opinion, and from an experience of near 20 years' residence in Wisconsin, believe them to be true, so far as respects their description of Wisconsin, and the healthiness of the country.

CHARLES GEAR, Suga Riva.

CHARLES BRACKAN, Mineral Point.



## LETTER FROM MRS. WILSON.

Gorstville, Wisconsin, February 4th, 1844.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I think by this time your patience with me will be exhausted, but you know the old adage, "better late than never." My last letter to England, to Mrs. Reeves, I wrote from the farm where we stopt till a house could be built, but Mr. Wilson thought I had better defer writing till we got on the estate, when I should be better able to give you a description of that immense field that waits to be cultivated by the hand of industry.

Wilson went to Madison for a letter and provisions, and took me back with him on the sleigh. I was very glad to commence the last stage of my long journey; it was a fine morning. We set off with our wagon on a sleigh, passing by the hills on one hand, that aspire to touch the clouds, and lower bluffs on the other, with the deer skipping about in their sportive play, one of them crossed our path, a beautiful creature, unfortunately we had no gun with us. I more than once said to Mr. Wilson on our way, What could possess you to travel through this waste howling wilderness to search a city of habitation? Wait a little while, he said, and you will soon see a finer piece of land than this. And so I did; we soon left the woods and bluffs behind, and came out on one of the most beautiful prairies the eye of man ever saw, and so you would say if you were here. While I stopped at the farm house, I have spoken to many different people respecting this place, and its vicinity, where Mr. Wilson has fixed to settle. Oh! they exclaimed, with one voice, it is one of the most beautiful spots of God's creation. So I thought. Well, it must be good when it has everybody's good word.

I must not forget to tell you there is a beautiful stream of water runs close by the house, the best I ever tasted—it is quite a pleasure to drink it. I am told in the spring it abounds with excellent fish. When the frost breaks up we are going to make a fish trap, that is, a hole in the creek, and fix wood on one side, so that when the fish get in they cannot get out again. So then we can have fresh fish for fetching, which all must allow will be an acquisition to all who live near the greatest of all privileges—good water.

Where I am now writing is in the log house, from the window I can see at least two miles from the house, in a straight line. If I could place some of the brick houses in Liverpool, that I have in the eye of my mind, here, and make a neat garden round it, I should fancy that I was in some gentleman's park in England. So what must it be in summer, when it is one continued garden of flowers and fruits.

But while I am writing on the scenery around me, I must not forget to tell you of one thing I greatly admire, that is the *bona fide* way they transact business, or deal with each other in the way of trade. If a man does an unfair act in trading with his neighbour it will be fifty miles from him on all sides in a very short time; he is looked on with contempt, and every one is put on his guard how he deals with that man in future. Any one that desires to be unjust in his dealings with those around, need not come here.

I think it an excellent market for labour; there are so few to work,

that they can get every thing they ask; the shortest day in winter they will not do any thing for less than a dollar per day, and in summer a dollar and a half.

In your last you say if we be faithful and true we shall bless our thousands; I think there is no reason to fear the former, or to doubt the latter. I once had a many fears, but since I came here I have thrown them all to the winds. I own it is a great work, and will require great exertion, much study, and great care, to make it work well; but as yet it is in its infancy; as in vegetation we have first the blade, then the ear, next the full corn in the ear, so in great works begun by man for the good of his fellow men, it must be a work of time before all can see its merits. I would not have any one think there is no difficulty to be encountered. Mr. Wilson has surmounted, for the good of the Society, what he would have sunk under in England. He has slept in the woods wrapt in his buffalo hide, under a tree, in the stable with his horses, and in a house without door or window; and now, while it is snowing hard, he is chopping a tree down.

I would advise all that come here to bring plenty of warm clothing with them, for it is very cold in winter, and hot in summer. I would advise all gentlemen that come to Wisconsin, to provide themselves with warm caps to come well down over the ears, and protect that useful member from Mr. Frost. If any of our friends coming out wish to have any sweeping brushes they had better bring them with their luggage, for I have not seen one of any sort since I came to this far West. They use a good broom or wisk. I shall be much pleased to have one brought out. I think baskets of all kinds are scarce and dear, I wished to buy one in Milwaukee and could not get one in the town. Smallwares of all kinds are very dear; you must pay ten cents for a penny worth of tape.

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#### LETTER FROM MISS EMMA REEVE.

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*Gorstville, Wisconsin, July 15, 1844.*

DEAR THOMAS,

We arrived at Gorstville on the 3rd of July. We had a very good passage across the Atlantic, although rather a long one for the time of the year, it taking us five weeks from Liverpool to New York, which was a long time to be confined to one thing. We had service in the Captain's cabin every Sunday, twice a day, and prayer meetings in our cabin every night.

Gorstville is a very pretty place indeed, it having a creek of water running through the land, and bluffs or hills at the side, which gives it a very grand appearance. I like the place very well to look at, but I shall be able to give you more account of it next letter, when I have seen a little more about it.

There are plenty of neighbours about a quarter of a mile from us, of our own people, and indeed I am very happy now. I think you would hardly know us we are so much burnt with the sun. I have got a large sun bonnet, something like a riddle; they all wear them here.

We are building our house now of logs; they are very comfortable houses when made properly.

From your ever affectionate Cousin,

EMMA REEVE.

LETTER FROM MR. CHARLES REEVE.

*Gorstville, July 12, 1844.*

DEAR GORST,

After a long and tiresome journey, I have the pleasure of addressing a letter to you from Gorstville, at which place I arrived on the 3rd of July. We had a very pleasant passage across the Atlantic, although rather a long one for the season, it taking us five weeks from port to port. We beat several vessels that sailed weeks before us, amongst the rest the one that Mr. Harrison sailed in; he arrived in New York the same day we did—sailed from Liverpool the 1st of April, in a North American built ship, badly found in every respect; the passengers were nearly starved the latter part of the time, only having one biscuit and a half per day, and very little water. This shows the advantage the packets have over such vessels. I should advise emigrants coming to New York, by all means to come in packet ships, if they wish to make the voyage with any comfort.

Captain Delano treated us with every kindness. I have not the least fault to find with him or his vessel, excepting the cooking apparatus, which was abominable. There was not accommodation for twenty people to cook with any degree of comfort. Judge, then, how it must have been with so many passengers.

On our arrival at the quarantine ground, we were met by Mr. Wilson, who came off to us in a boat; he informed us he had made arrangements with Messrs. Harnden's, to convey us from New York to Buffalo, for 3 dollars per adult; children under twelve, half-price; under three years, free; luggage, 3s 4d per 100 lbs. And here let me remark, that people in general bring a great deal too much luggage; the cost of it is immense; and it is a great chance if it is not partially destroyed before it gets to the end of the journey; at least half of mine is so. The above arrangement appeared to give every body connected with us satisfaction, until we got alongside the wharf. The runners boarded us. They, on finding we were a large party, and had contracted with Harnden's, against whom the passenger carriers in general have a spite, in consequence of his exposing their villainies, offered to take us for one-half less, and in quicker time. Several of our party here began to grumble, stating they could have done much better without a conductor to meet them. They wished us to return them the money which we had collected on board for the passage; but as Mr. Wilson had formed a contract with Harnden's, which he was responsible for, I did not feel justified in doing so. Some of the passengers of the Patrick Henry took advantage of this cheap conveyance, that was to have them in Buffalo three days before us. They left New York at the same time as we did, they in a steamboat, we in boats towed by a steamer. They got into Albany next morning, we the morning after. We saw no more of them until we had been on the

Erie Canal three days, when we overtook them, on Sunday morning, fastened to a warehouse, waiting to take in goods on Monday. We finally got into Buffalo two days before them.

This shows how much dependance is to be placed on the New York runners. In addition to making a longer passage, they were charged much more for their luggage than us. We had a very pleasant voyage from Buffalo to Milwaukee, in a sailing vessel, through the lakes.

I am sorry to say the journey to Gorstville from Milwaukee is by far the most unpleasant and expensive. I left England with the intention of giving the black as well as the bright side of things. The emigrants must come in future by way of New Orleans; they will come much cheaper, more comfortable, and have very little land carriage.

Gorstville is situated in a beautiful prairie, rather rolling, having a creek of good water on one side, and high bluffs, covered with timber, on the other. Mr. Wilson has built the houses within a short distance of the creek, so that each should have ready access to water. The land is laid out so that each farm has a portion of land on each side of the creek. The centre of the prairie is ploughed, and sown with indian corn, buck wheat, and oats. The situation of the place, so far as wood and water are concerned, is excellent. Some part of the land is very good, others not so good. Upon the whole, I think those upon it are satisfied with it. I have no doubt you will hear contrary statements from returned emigrants, who have no connexion with us. Put no confidence in them. I am sorry to say the emigrants are very much dissatisfied with the houses Mr. Wilson has provided for them.\* There is no doubt that Mr. Wilson has had great difficulties to encounter with; being a stranger in a strange land, every body endeavouring to take advantage of him, as they do of us. His expenses another year will be considerably lighter, as we now have plenty of workmen on the estate, without being obliged to employ the independent Yankees.

I have, in accordance with your request, formed the Reporting Committee;† they have already commenced their labours.

CHARLES REEVE, Estate Steward.

\* The houses were built chiefly in Mr. Wilson's absence, he being on his journey to Washington, to make some arrangements with the Government, and also to New York to meet the emigrants.

The men had made an effort to burn lime stone, prepare lime, &c. but could not succeed, which caused a delay in the finishing of the houses.

This has been reported to the Parent Committee, who have taken steps to put all in order, according to law.

† The Reporting Committee consist of the Estate Steward, Surveyor, and five members, elected by ballot yearly from those occupying the society's land; among others we have now four practical farmers and two practical gardeners, on the estate, whose judgments will be consulted in connection with the officers, in the selection of land for each purchase, so that the Society is now in a position to carry out its principles to the general satisfaction of its members.

*Taken from Mr. Coriel's Writings, one of the Surveyors of Wisconsin and Iowa.*

The soil of the prairie of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, particularly the alluvial bottom lands, is extremely fertile, it is generally a black vegetable mould, intermingled with a sandy loam; it is easily cultivated, and endures a draught remarkably well. The soil in the high prairies will average from 18 to 24 inches in depth, and in the bottom lands from 24 to 48 inches. The surface is nearly black, but near its lower limit it imperceptibly mingles with its under layer of red coloured clay, frequently mixed with gravel. This sub soil, when spread upon sandy soils, after a few months' exposure to the atmosphere, is found to be a very valuable manure. In some parts of this country, there is a third stratum of bluish clay, from 20 to 30 feet below the surface, in the upland prairies.

*Note.*—The field notes of the surveyed land of Wisconsin we have in possession. They consist of a full description of all the surveyed lands, and are the Surveyor's account to Government of the nature and quality of the soils, timber, minerals, springs, creeks, &c. in and on the land.

The following is taken from the Field Notes, and is a description of the Society's land, which members are now occupying:—On the main creek a bottom of about one mile wide of rich land without timber; south part, bur oak openings, and numerous ridges well watered with streams and springs, soil in the bottom, black rich mould, first rate quality.

#### EXTRACT OF A COMMUNICATION

*Of the Hon. ALFRED BRUNSON, relating to his travels in the north-western wilderness of Wisconsin.*

*Prairie du Chien, December 6, 1843.*

*His Excellency J. D. DOTY, Governor of Wisconsin:*

SIR,—The entire county south of Lake Superior is now ceded to the United States, and open to settlement. And believing it to be of great public service to have a road opened through it, not only to facilitate its settlement, but also to connect those settlements already made on the principal rivers, and to open a direct communication by the nearest and best route between the lead and copper mines within our limits, I consented to guide the enterprising company, before mentioned, in their arduous undertaking.

Throughout this region of country there are large quantities of quartz formation, so hard as to cut glass, and so connected with flint as to form the best materials for bur mill stones. A gentleman of fifteen years' experience in mills, told me he never saw better blocks come from France.

Black river falls are about 50 miles from its junction with the Mississippi; and with a little improvement at its mouth, this river would be navigable to the falls, for small steamboats. At the falls, it is about 100 yards wide, but will probably average 200 from thence to its mouth.

Some fine specimens of virgin copper and silver have been found within this territory.

On the north west coast of the lake, copper is said to be more abundant than on any other part of it. And on the St. Louis river, about the falls, virgin copper, and copper ore, are easily obtained. And above the falls, for 20 miles, inexhaustible quarries of the finest of slate lie naked, and invite the enterprise of man to supply the nation, or the world, from its abundance.

The country immediately on the margin of the lake is, for a short distance, flat and wet. But in receding from the lake, it soon rises, gradually, the timber is more open and of better quality, the soil improves in character, and is more inviting to agriculturists. A little west of La Pointe, and 10 or 12 miles south of the lake shore, the prairie country commences, which extends to and beyond the St. Croix and Mississippi, and offers great inducements to agriculturists, who like such a high north latitude. The winters, however are much milder here than in the same latitude east of us.

In reference to the road we opened, I may say that in thirty years extensive travels in the west, I have never seen so good ground for a road, in a state of nature, and so few streams to cross, for the same distance, as that between this place and La Pointe.

I am satisfied that it is the best route for a road from the lead mines to the lake; and that if congress would appropriate 10,000 dollars for that purpose, the road could be made fit for post coaches, which could run it in five or six days. I respectfully submit it to the legislature, to petition congress for such an appropriation.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,  
ALFRED BRUNSON.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM JAMES GORDON BENNETT, ESQ. IOWA, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

August 9th, 1843.

DEAR SIR,—In my last I told you I had something else to say of this beautiful and majestic river, and the future prospects of Iowa.

I have frequently passed up this river, from the mouth of the Ohio to Bloomington, sometimes higher—have crossed it in twenty places. In summer I have bathed and fished in it, or laid still in my little walnut canoe, and floated down the "slye" to shoot the ducks and geese; and in winter I have taken many a merry sleigh ride or chased the deer and and wolf upon its ice, and cooled my parched tongue with the same in summer.

And this river, from the mouth of the Ohio, one thousand miles, to the Falls, is as fine navigation as the Hudson, with the exception of the rapids—one at the lower part of the territory, just above the mouth of the Desmoines, twelve miles long—the other at Rock Island, above the mouth of Rock River, eighteen miles long. They are over a flat rock, with a fall of from one to two feet per mile. When the river is high, there are five or six feet water, and when low but two feet. The U. S. government have commenced improving the lower rapids, by blasting the rock in the channel to make it deeper, and the work has already rendered much assistance to the navigation.

Freight from St. Louis here or to Galena and Dubuque, when the water is high, is from ten to twelve and a half cents per hundred; but when it is low, it is from fifty to one hundred.

The number of steamboats which crossed these rapids last year was 415—the number this year, four first months, is 305. They will average 200 tons.

The river usually closes in December, and opens early in March. Its rise and fall is very gradual, being only about twelve feet. Its highest rise is usually in June, and it frequently spins out its spring tide through half the summer. At this day it is four feet above low water, having fallen about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in four weeks.

I have been thus particular in speaking of our navigation, because the first objects of any country are its commerce and agriculture. Such are our commercial advantages, and now for the agriculture. The richness of the soil is the first and greatest object of the farmer. But accompanying this, he must have a dry healthy location, wood, water, and a market. The exceeding richness of the soil I have spoken of in my former letter, which is well adapted to wheat, corn, hemp, oats, potatoes, tobacco, &c. Its richness varies but little with bottom and upland; the former being more sandy and warm, is better adapted to corn, while the latter is more black, clayey and moist, better adapted to wheat and grass.

The country has a very uniform formation, having no hills. The highland, or table lands, are elevated about 200 feet above the Mississippi, and the depth of the valley, or smaller streams, is generally in proportion to their size. On reference to a map, it may be seen that our country is well interspersed with rivers of considerable magnitude, and the smaller streams, rising between them, flow with a rapid current to their valleys, forming numerous mill-seats, and leaving the country everywhere dry.

This is a natural grazing country; it would make your Yankee farmers themselves fat, to see the cattle and sheep, and horses, luxuriating in the grass, with a prairie breeze which keeps the flies in the grove. They get as fat as your stall fed. Sheep are now a great object with the prairie farmers. They thrive equally well as the sheep on the hills at the east. Then, what a saving in freight, on wool, over that of beef and pork. In a few years Iowa will ship large quantities of wool east.

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EXTRACT FROM CHAMBERS'S EDINBURGH JOURNAL.

*Vol 2, New Series, Page 200.*

I received a letter the other day from Robertson, a few extracts from which will save me the trouble of recording the progress of our emigrants since my visit.

My wife and both my own children are quite well; the former sends all sorts of good wishes to you. As for myself, I am in rude health, looking more like a blacksmith than a Cantab. O'Donohue and I are thinking of adding a tan-yard and bark-mill to our present business, as there is abundance of hemlock in the neighbourhood; at all events, we have each determined upon having a frame-house up next summer, and turning the old log-houses into cow sheds. I am sorry to hear that B— has gone home, after making such a short stay in the country; it

is the case with hundreds who have not the energy to face, or the perseverance to endure, a few trifling hardships for the sake of independence in a short time. However, I must not say any thing about that, as I have no doubt I should have gone home myself the first year if I had had the means, but now I would not exchange my situation of a Canadian backwoodsman for the highest in England. We would be glad to see you out here, and I am sure it would be the best thing that could be done, both by yourself and by thousands like you, who have not sufficient independence of spirit, even if there was an opening, to go into any business, and who, from your small means, are engaged in constant struggle to keep up the appearance of gentility. If you should resolve to emigrate to this or any other colony, keep this golden rule in your mind; for inattention to this has, I may say, been the sole cause of ruin to hundreds. If you have not much money, buy a small quantity of land, and pay cash for it, and never, if you can possibly avoid it, buy anything on credit. You do not know what may occur to prevent your being able to pay at the right time; and, besides, few men have sufficient control over themselves to work with any feelings of pleasure to pay off old debts, instead of being themselves the sole profitters by their exertions. Independence is the grand difficulty, and yet the grand charm of backwood life. I do not mean that we stand alone in the desert, cut off and separate from the sympathies of our kind; for in reality there is no part of the world where men are more indebted to friendship and good neighbourhood than here, where our nearest neighbour is in general a dozen miles off. I mean that we do not lean on the social system for physical support. We have no "situations" to covet, no degrees of servitude as the boundaries of our ambition. We must achieve a living for ourselves, or perish in the wilderness. The idle, the slothful, the dissipated; the cowardly, must fall away before the approach of winter, like the scar-leaves of the forest; and, in short, it is only the wakeful, the bold, the temperate, and the persevering, who must hope to be able to maintain their ground. As for myself, my life has been comparatively easy and fortunate. I had a little, though a very little, capital, a good wife, and a kind neighbour. I was therefore not alone in the woods; I was not a beggar in the desert. And yet I cannot help feeling, with a mixture of pride and humble thankfulness, that, in the midst of occasional misgivings and faint-heartedness, there was a leaven of determination in my character which enabled me to triumph over them all. But do not, my dear friend, make the mistake of holding me up as an example to the delicately nurtured, the refined in mind, for to such the consequences in nineteen cases out of twenty would be fatal. I will not, however, dwell on this. I trust to your own experience and faculty of observation. For myself, all I have to add is, that, with the blessing of Providence, there is a field before me. The stream of population seems to follow where I was the unconscious pioneer. Towns and cities will by and by rise on the banks of heretofore desert rivers; my property will acquire new value, and my descendants, it may be, rank among the citizens of a great country now in its infancy.

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MR. WRIGGLESWORTH'S OPINION OF THE SOCIETY'S  
ESTATE.

Owing to family ties and connexions, one of our members, much against his own will and interest, has returned to England. Upon the whole, the accounts which he has brought are of the most pleasing and encouraging nature, and fully prove that we are just getting into a proper position to carry out the principles of the Society to the full and entire satisfaction of its members, and that we shall become a wealthy, independent, and happy people, as it regards our own members, and bless our thousands or millions yet unborn.

He has brought us an average specimen of the soil of the estate, taken fifteen inches below the surface; it is black mould, of excellent quality, and by competent judges who have examined it here, it is pronounced to be capable of growing anything in the way of vegetation, and will improve by working. He likewise approves of the location selected, and believes that in a few years it will become a great place. He admires its beautiful scenery, and states that the creek is a stream of good water abounding with large fish, has sufficient depth for small vessels to carry produce, and that the water runs down it at about the rate of three miles an hour; that the country is first-rate for health, and although warm, that there is generally a fine refreshing breeze of wind which adds to the comforts of the settlers.

As a proof that he is favourable to the Society and the country, he intends to retain a share in the Society; and as a farther proof that the prospects of the members are satisfactory, one of our members on the estate, who is a practical farmer, has written over to his brother in England, requesting him to come out and take possession of the share which is now unoccupied.

The following is a letter from the person above alluded to:

*Sheffield, October 8th, 1844.*

MR. ROBT. GORST.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry your note came to hand too late for a reply in time, as I was at a relation's about four miles from Sheffield. Had I had time I should have taken great pleasure in stating my views of the Society's location, in the manner you refer to. The opinion I gave you in Liverpool is my sincere and honest conviction. The climate I found healthy, the land good, the water pure and plentiful, and the scenery surpassing anything I have seen even in Scotland. That there are inconveniences and trials to endure I do not deny; so many, that my dear wife prefers an English life; although, after arriving at Elysium Prairie, I should have remained, but saw it my duty, for the sake of domestic happiness, to return. Any information I can give will be imparted at any time, with pleasure. I am still a well-wisher to the Society, and believe, if well managed, it will bless its thousands.—Yours truly,

WILLIAM WRIGGLESWORTH.

## ROUTE BY NEW YORK.

The general average of the prices of passage from Liverpool to New York, are about as follow:—By the packet ships, spring months, from £3 15s. to £4 10s. in the second cabin, and from £3 5s. to £4 in the steerage, bread stuffs and hospital money included.

Passage on board the transit vessels is generally ten shillings less than the prices on board the packet ships: children under fourteen years of age, half-price, unless there be a scarcity of vessels and a great quantity of emigrants in port.

After the run of the spring is over, the prices of passage will be about from 15s. to £1 less than the above-named prices.

From New York to Albany by steamer, fare ..... 4s. 2d.

By tow boat ..... 1 0

From Albany to Buffalo ..... from 10s to 15 0

From Buffalo to Milwaukee, by steamer ..... £1 4 0

Ditto ditto, by sailing vessel, about from 10s to 0 12 0

Children under 12 years, half-price; infants, free.

Luggage 100 lbs on the river, and 50 lbs on the canal and lakes, free.

Extra luggage about 4s. per 100 lbs. from New York to Milwaukee.

N.B. Harnden & Co. No. 3, Walls, New York; or the New York Passage Association, No. 10, Front-street, New York, can be safely relied on, for passage and protection by emigrants.

## ROUTE BY NEW ORLEANS.

From Liverpool to New Orleans there are no regular Packets; prices vary from £3 to £4 10s.; from New Orleans to St. Louis, from 9s. to 15s.; from St. Louis to Galena, from 4s. to 8s. Children, half-price. Luggage free.

A steamer did run from Galena up the Wisconsin river, 112 miles, passing Gorstville within 3 miles, and ran 34 miles above it to the portage, but for the present it is discontinued.

The land site for the intended city of Heyworth, is situated on one of the main creeks on the Wisconsin River, and near the Society's present location.

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