

WILLIAM F. VILAS.  
From a photograph by Kurtz, New York.

## THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

BY THE HON. W. F. VILAS.

NO region can be more appropriately designated the heart of North America, speaking geographically, than that which lies within the embrace of the upper Mississippi, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan. The great natural arteries of the habitable continent issue from its borders, and grant to it, although inland a thousand miles, easy commerce with the ocean on the east, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. In the ports of both lakes ships from Europe are to be seen which have passed, by the St. Lawrence gate, through the wall of mountains that from Labrador to Georgia defends the interior. The principal water channels of the wide plains between the Rocky and Alleghany ranges are gathered by the Mississippi into a tributary system of natural intercommunication available for its practical use.

Of this territory the State of Wisconsin embraces the greater part. In the plan of the nation's forefathers it was designed that a single State should comprehend substantially all of it; and it would, in some respects, have been convenient and beneficial to its inhabitants had the plan been more nearly adhered to in the adjustment of State lines. This was all parcel of the Northwest Territory, and was delivered from European dominion by the success of the Revolution, confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, by which instrument Great Britain surrendered the country to the Mississippi, the limit of her claim westward; and the northwestern corner on the Canadian boundary was fixed in the Lake of the Woods. Virginia, however, claimed the entire expanse beyond the Ohio, at least as far as the Illinois; Massachusetts asserted title, under her royal charter, to a belt of eighty miles in width, below the parallel of  $43^{\circ} 43' 12''$ , extending to the river; and Connecticut to still another adjoining belt; but all relinquished their claims in the interest of common fellowship and good-will, and ceded full title and jurisdiction to the federal government. Thereupon, in consideration of their grants, the Congress of the old confederation passed the famous ordinance of 1787, and by one of its six special "articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory," which were to "forever remain

unalterable, unless by common consent," it was agreed and ordained that "not less than three nor more than five States" should be formed in the territory; of which, if but three, the third should be composed of the district of country lying west of a direct line drawn due north from the Wabash and Post Vincents to the Canadian boundary, and the division of this district to form two States, Congress was authorized to make *only* upon "an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan."

Had this "compact" been kept, the State of Wisconsin would have possessed northern Illinois, with the city of Chicago; northeastern Minnesota, with the cities of St. Paul and Duluth; and the richest portion of the upper peninsula of Michigan. But the insecurity of public engagements received signal illustration in the performance of this covenant in the first great instrument of national obligation after the establishment of our independence. Not one of the five States formed in the Northwest Territory is bounded according to the requirement of the celebrated ordinance, nor did any departure from it receive the common consent, which was the only contingency to modify the guarantee of perpetual observance. Ohio first, then Indiana, were permitted to crowd their northern lines upon Michigan; and Illinois to take 8400 square miles, in a strip of sixty-one miles width, from southern Wisconsin; in each instance the protesting Territory proving wholly defenceless in Congress, with no buckler but the nation's compact, "forever unalterable," against the arguments and influence of a new-coming State, immediately to possess votes in that body and the Electoral College. After long resistance, the people of Michigan were forced reluctantly into their lucky bargain, by which her territorial losses were far more than compensated in the gain of the entire upper peninsula; and Wisconsin was left with the usual portion, according to old customs, of the youngest in the family. Nor in the end was she permitted to keep what the others left. The great size of the remainder appeared to some of the older States dangerously dis-

proportionate; the settlers in the northwestern portion were ambitious to secure a separate State, and exerted themselves diligently to influence Congress; and many in Wisconsin favored the division. It resulted in the excision by Congress of the northwestern corner of the old Territory, and Wisconsin entered the Union in 1848, with limits much less than were originally set apart for this State, yet substantially equal in area to Michigan and Illinois, and greatly beyond Ohio and Indiana, and with a country unexcelled, rarely equalled, in variety, extent, and quality of natural resources. The south boundary of the State lies on the parallel of 42° 30' north latitude; the lakes, joined by the line of the Menomonee River flowing to Green Bay, and the Montreal in opposite course into Superior, are her eastern and northern confines; the northwestern limit proceeds from the end of Lake Superior up the St. Louis River to the first rapids, thence due south by a land line of about forty miles to the St. Croix River, and by its course to the Mississippi, which forms the western border. Its superficial measurement is 53,924 square miles. Its average length is approximately 260 miles, its average breadth, 215; but its shape is not regular, and the distance between its northernmost point and south line exceeds 312 miles, while its extreme breadth is nearly or quite three hundred. The little archipelago known as the Apostle Islands, in Lake Superior, lies within its northern boundary.

Protracted controversy attended all the adjustments of State lines which have been mentioned, much bitter feeling was aroused in the breasts of the pioneers and early statesmen of Michigan and Wisconsin, and for some time efforts were pressed to undo the dispositions which Congress had made. The northern counties of Illinois unwillingly parted at the time from the expected association with their neighbors above. The inhabitants of the western part of the upper peninsula of Michigan sustained more inconvenience, because their interests and intercourse naturally unite them to Wisconsin, and their readiest communication with their capital has long been by rail through this State and around Lake Michigan by the south. Yet, except in their case, it may be doubted whether much loss of material welfare has been sustained by the people chiefly affected by the deviations from

the lines originally fixed by the ordinance of 1787; and although States of vastly greater area have been since received, the opinions which prevailed when the limits of Wisconsin were finally settled might not improbably have operated to deny it extension to the shores of Lake Superior, and possession of much of its rich northern territory, if the southern boundary had been preserved on the line drawn through the "extreme of Lake Michigan."

The history of Wisconsin in all memorable particulars is not obscure. It opens under French auspices, and is separable by five divisions. The eras of French rule, of British authority, of pre-Territorial transition, of separate Territorial and State existence, are landmarked by events.

The elucidation of the circumstances of its discovery, from neglected and forgotten testimonies, has been in recent years accomplished to general acceptance by Professor Consul W. Butterfield, an industrious and intelligent student of the antiquities and annals of the State. He has not only brought out from long obscurity the true discoverer, but has set back by many years the date of the event. The little colony of the Pilgrims on the Massachusetts coast was only in its fourteenth year when first the white adventurer saw Wisconsin. He was Jean Nicolle, an early specimen of that unique and hardy race, the *coureurs des bois*, a graft of Indian savage life upon French character, who were for two centuries the curious common carriers of the wilderness. He had come to New France in 1618, a youth of twenty, for many years was immersed alone among the Hurons, in the wilds about Lake Nipissing and the upper waters of the Ottawa, and typically embodied the adventurous spirit, fortitude, cheerfulness, and zeal which always characterized his class. It seems to have been the old geographical fantasy, so oft pursued to bitter disappointments—belief of an easy way to Cathay and the realms of the East—that spurred him to his bold journey. Rumor passed among the Indians of eastern Lake Huron, then the terminal of exploration, of a tribe that dwelt some hundreds of leagues to the westward, called Quinipigous, meaning "men of the sea." Significant name! Fancy-colored hope readily saw in the misty stories of their large wooden canoes, shaved heads, and beardless faces a people

who knew the Western ocean, had mingled with, were even kindred to, the Chinese or Tartars of the East. It would seem that even Champlain, chivalrous old knight of the forest, lent his ear to the tale, and blew the flame of expectation. And Nicollet, in company with the good Father Brebeuf, then just setting forth on his dismal and fatal mission to the Hurons, again toiled up the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers to Allumette Island, and then on alone to the Georgian Bay, whence embarking with but seven Indian companions, he first of white men traversed the mist-covered waters of upper Lake Huron, paddled up the Strait of Mackinac, ascended the western coast of Lake Michigan, crossed the threshold of "Death's Door" into the sombre Green Bay, found at its head the mouth of the Fox, and at length, in the autumn-summer of 1634, set foot on the country of his venturesome search, of the "men of the sea." He despatched a messenger, to whom they hospitably responded, and, escorted by a company of their young men, he proceeded to their village. He knew the value of first impressions, and long before had studied the effects of this momentous meeting. Through all his tedious journeying he had borne with anxious care the garments suited to the tastes of this people he was then to see. The hour was now at hand, and, brilliantly apparelled in Chinese damask embroidered with many-colored birds and flowers, exploding pistols from both hands, he theatrically presented himself, the ambassador of New France. His illusion quickly vanished. No gorgeous mandarin welcomed him with Oriental grace; no road to Cathay opened there. They were simple savages like his own companions, who marvelled at the strange whiteness of his skin, and in a great assemblage feasted him magnificently on beaver; but he found a country marked by Nature's love, and her waterway to the Mississippi.

Notwithstanding his theory of raiment miscarried, the hands that clasped the thunder were objects of reverential awe, and Nicollet readily made friends of these Winnebagoes, and later of other tribes, and tarried for months among them. He continued his journey farther up the Fox River, to where but a short portage to the Wisconsin gives access to the waters that descend to the Gulf, and not improbably learned the general course of that river.

At that point, however, he turned southward by land, traversed the prairies into Illinois, and in the autumn of 1635 returned to Quebec. But the high-mettled Champlain lay sinking to his end, and there was none then to carry the flag of France to the new-found country of the prairies, and Nicollet's adventures and discoveries lapsed into story, fruitless, except of unacknowledged guidance to later explorers.

Twenty years afterward, two bold traders in quest of peltries penetrated the Northern forests, and probably visited Green Bay; but the beginnings of settlement were due to the Society of Jesus. In 1665 Father Claude Allouez pushed along the southern coast of Lake Tracy, as they called Superior then, to the Bay of Chegoimegon, and there established the Mission of the Holy Ghost. Near the head of the bay he built a house, sided and thatched with bark, the first dwelling of a white man in Wisconsin. Six years later this mission was abandoned from terror of the Sioux, and for above a century and a half was not resumed. The name of La Pointe de Saint Esprit, abridged to La Pointe in common speech, remained to the neighborhood, and afterward attached to the place on Madeline Island where an important post of Mr. Astor's famous company was located, in the prosperity of the fur trade. There Baraga, afterward bishop, re-established the mission in 1835, and for years wrought to construct in the wild Chippewa speech the gentle messages of Christianity.

He was born in Austria, near the close of the last century, studied law in Vienna, and theology in Laibach, where he was ordained. He came to America in 1830, burning with an ardor to bring the gospel to the hearts of the Indian people, which remained unquenched through all his long life. He began his Indian studies at Cincinnati, was first installed as pastor at Arbor Croche, afterward taught at a village near the site of Grand Rapids, in Michigan, and thence repaired to La Pointe. He became distinguished for his knowledge of the Chippewa tongue, wrote and published an Otchipwe dictionary and grammar, translations from the Bible, catechism, prayer and hymn books, besides works in the German and Slavonic languages. He was consecrated Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie in 1853, but subsequently transferred his episcopal residence to Mar-

quette, and there he died in 1868, beloved and revered by all within a wide region upon which he had left the impress of his saintly purity, untiring zeal, and love for men. The humility and patience with which he labored and suffered, often in the extremest poverty and wretchedness of life, the constancy of his love for the benighted people to whom he was sent, the severity of his self-imposed tasks, his wonderful devotion and great accomplishments, have given him renown among missionaries hardly below those of earlier times who received the crown of martyrdom.

In 1669, the same missionary, Allouez, associated with Father Dablon, commenced at the head of Green Bay the enduring mission of St. François Xavier, and two years after built a chapel five or six miles above the mouth of the Fox, whence the present town of Depere derives its name, as the place *des pères*. Fort La Baye, an insignificant affair, was built where the city of Fort Howard now is, on the bank near the river's mouth. The point was one of activity in the Indian trade, but no settlement of the kind that indicates approaching civilization and development was begun there or elsewhere in Wisconsin until long after it was delivered from foreign hands. In 1761, a British officer, with less than a score of men, entered unopposed, and took possession of the post at Green Bay. Afterward, by the Treaty of Paris, negotiated in 1762, France entirely gave up the continent, yielding her northern possessions to England, and the territory of Louisiana to Spain. In the Green Bay neighborhood, the little fort, disused and decayed, the chapel and the mission house, a few families, a few *arpents* of cultivated ground, a few titles under French law, the disputed tradition of a "fort," or trading house, at Prairie du Chien, perhaps a factory at the foot of Lake Pepin, some inoculation of the French language on Indian dialects—these and nothing more were left to preserve the savor of New France in Wisconsin.

In June, 1763, on the breaking out of Pontiac's war, the Chippewas surprised and captured Michilimackinac, which necessitated immediate withdrawal of the garrison at Green Bay, and the British sway was thenceforth wholly nominal, neither settler nor soldier of England appearing afterward during its continu-

ance. Although that government surlily held the Northern posts until 1796, independence legally dates here, as in the original States, with the Declaration of 1776; and the twenty years between were free, in fact, of the manifestations of British authority.

The most interesting event of the French era was the famous voyage of Father Marquette and Sieur Joliet to the Mississippi in 1673, too often and too well described to admit repetition. It was not absolute discovery, for the great river had been De Soto's grave above a hundred and thirty years, and Indian report had also made known its existence and course toward the South. Yet the merit of discovery is theirs, because the story of De Soto's wanderings carried little geographical information, and none of the origin of the river; and it was their finding which made the world acquainted with it, even as the same that held his body.

The transitional period before organization of the Territory of Wisconsin lasted sixty years. Until 1800 the Northwest Territory remained intact. The first division was made on the Fourth of July in that year, under an act passed in the preceding May, with a view to the erection of the State of Ohio, and all west of that proposed State was constituted the Territory of Indiana. The next step was taken in 1805, by setting out the Territory of Michigan within the lines designed for the fourth State by the ordinance of 1787; but this did not embrace any country west of the lake. In 1809 Congress created the Territory of Illinois, and, still pursuing essentially the lines of the ordinance, gave to it all west of the lower Wabash and the Vincennes meridian, thus comprising Wisconsin and north-eastern Minnesota. Across this expanse the enabling act of Illinois drew the limit of that State, as already mentioned, in 1818, and annexed the northern remainder to Michigan Territory. This political association, to which was added in 1834 all the region west of the Mississippi which lies north of the State of Missouri and east of the Missouri and White Earth rivers, continued until the Fourth of July, 1836. On that day, by the act of April 20th, the Territory of Wisconsin came into being, with the area of Michigan Territory diminished by the excision of that State; Iowa, Minnesota, and the eastern half of the two Dakotas being thus included.

The first considerable immigration was due to the discovery of the lead mines. This mineral exists in great abundance in northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin, and when the fact became known, it was followed by a multitudinous rush to that region, then novel in character, though since witnessed in many other localities. Galena was the first seat of operations, and long the emporium of the trade. Its occupation began in 1822, and in three years the incoming tide was at flood. In the year 1828 the production of these mines amounted to nearly 13,000,000 pounds of the coveted metal.

The mineral district lay partly within the country claimed by the Winnebagoes, then numbering nearly 5000. They themselves had dug and reduced the ores, and looked upon the invasion with a jealousy which rose to bitter resentment. This brought about what is known as the Winnebago war, a war of no actual conflict of forces and but little bloodshed, owing to efficient measures of suppression promptly taken. General alarm, however, existed for a time, and doubtless the danger of a serious outbreak was imminent.

After a few years of peace came the Black Hawk war, the last desperate struggle of the red man east of the Mississippi. The honor of latest resistance belongs worthily to that brave tribe which in earlier days had waged so many wars in maintenance of their country—the Sacs and Foxes. The hostilities lasted from May to August, mainly in the Territory; several engagements befell, and many bloody deeds were done. The Indians were gradually driven from the mining districts, and finally, in swift retreat northerly through the Four Lake country to the Wisconsin River, on the banks of which, nearly opposite Sauk City, they were overtaken and defeated in a general engagement, on the 21st of July, 1832, with heavy loss. Their retreat and pursuit followed toward the west, and on the 2d of August the whole band—men, women, and children—were hemmed in on the banks of the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Bad Axe River. An armed steamer aided to prevent their escape, and the greater portion of the tribe was slain, little quarter being shown. The attack by the national troops was led by Colonel Zachary Taylor, afterward President. Black



HENRY DODGE.

From the painting by J. C. Marine, in possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Hawk escaped at the time, but was in a few days captured and delivered up by Winnebagoes. He was detained in prison at Jefferson Barracks and Fortress Monroe until the succeeding June; then, being liberated, he was shown the principal cities of the country, to impress him with its power, and retired to Iowa, where he lived quietly till his death in 1838.

No one gained greater fame in this war than General Henry Dodge. He is sometimes called the hero of the war; and, so far as it afforded scope for the lofty title, was worthy of it. Black Hawk many times declared that but for the chief, Hairy Face—as his tribe had named him—he should have whipped the whites, and ranged the mining country at will. In his intrepidity, sagacity, skill, and conduct, General Dodge unquestionably manifested qualities which would have won him high renown on a wider field of arms. He commanded the mounted riflemen of the Territory, and by incessant vigilance and activity preserved the settlements from many scenes of horror, besides participating in nearly every engagement. It was his hot pursuit for over a hundred miles that secured the opportunity for battle on

the Wisconsin River, and made the Indians' final escape impossible. But the little battle of the Pecatonica, some time earlier, remarkable for desperate fighting and result, gained him most repute for personal prowess. He had pursued a party of thirteen Indians, who had done recent murders, to a bend in that river covered by a deep swamp, where in the timber behind a high bank they found a natural breastwork. Dismounting, he charged upon them with eighteen men, and, notwithstanding that until the bank was surmounted the Indians were covered, within five minutes every savage was slain, Dodge losing three killed and one wounded.

General Dodge was a frontier boy, born at Vincennes, October 12, 1782, and removed in early manhood to a part of the new-bought Territory of Louisiana, within the present State of Missouri. In the war of 1812 he became a lieutenant-colonel in the Louisiana militia, and performed service up the Missouri, in watch of the Indians. The lead mines attracted him in 1827, where he had but lately arrived when called into service against the Winnebagoes. He pursued lead mining for some years, and built the first smelting furnace in the Territory. After the Black Hawk war, though already past fifty, he accepted the colonelcy of the newly authorized First Regiment of the United States Dragoons, and in 1835 marched to the Rocky Mountains. President Jackson appointed him first Governor of the Territory and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Mr. Tyler removed him in 1841, and appointed James D. Doty, then the Territorial Delegate, in his stead. Thereupon the people elected the general as Delegate in place of Doty, and he served in the House of Representatives until 1845, when Mr. Polk restored him to the office of Governor, which he held until the admission of the State. He was then elected to the United States Senate, and re-elected in 1851. He enjoyed the singular parental felicity of the companionship in the Senate of his son, Augustus C. Dodge, a Senator from Iowa, highly distinguished for abilities and character, both having also previously sat together in the House as Delegates. At the end of his term he retired, in his seventy-fifth year, from public service, and in honored quietude enjoyed still ten years more of life, passing away at the home of his son in Burlington, Iowa, June

19, 1867. No man has ever possessed a greater, perhaps none so great a measure of affection and regard from the people of Wisconsin.

Its distance from Detroit by any practicable route of travel isolated the country west of the lake from the Territorial government, and begot early agitation for independent political life. The inhabitants on the eastern side also actively sought the erection of their State. But Congress, from embarrassment by the boundary disputes or other influences, delayed the necessary action. A bill to establish the new Territory was reported to the House in 1830; another passed that body in 1831; yet from year to year every measure halted incomplete. At last a novel remedy was applied, and proved successful. The Legislative Council of the Territory itself passed an act in 1835 to enable the people to form a State government without further waiting upon Congress. Provision was made for the assembling of a constitutional convention of delegates from the limits of the proposed State, while the people in the residue of the Territory were empowered to choose their Delegate to Congress and separate Legislative Council. Upon the constitution so formed, Michigan was admitted. In the west, George W. Jones was elected Delegate, and admitted to a seat in the House of Representatives in December following without a question. He rendered efficient service by procuring the act to establish the Territory of Wisconsin, and was re-elected, or chosen first Delegate of the new Territory, in the ensuing year, and served the full term. General Jones subsequently fixed his residence in Dubuque, where he had large business interests, and thenceforward his career, illustrated by eminent public services as a Senator and diplomatic representative, accrued to the benefit and honor of Iowa.

The member who introduced to the Council the bill which secured the accomplishment of the long-deferred wishes of the people was James Duane Doty, of Green Bay, one of the most eminent of Wisconsin's early settlers. Born in Salem, New York, in 1799, he had removed in 1819 to Detroit, and at once gained unusual favor and confidence; and though but twenty-four, President Monroe had appointed him to the independent judgeship provided for the region west of the Sault and Lake Michigan in the year

1823, in which capacity he had organized the courts and conducted the judicial business of the country for nine years. He had been chosen to the Council in 1834, and was at this time sitting in his second year. He became afterward Delegate to Congress for nearly three years, succeeding General Jones; Governor of the Territory from 1841 to 1844; and upon the admission of Wisconsin, for two terms a member of Congress; and rendered other useful services to the public. He settled at Green Bay in 1824, and resided there thirty years. Upon his retirement from Congress he changed his home to the pretty islet which divides the waters of the Fox as they issue from Lake Winnebago, still called Doty's Island. Earliest among the prominent pioneers of Wisconsin, he looked upon her as a father on his child, and was tireless in her service. He was strong and stubborn in his opinions, and sometimes whimsical. While Governor he denied the right of the Legislature chosen in 1843 to sit in December of that year, and after its assembling forced an adjournment to a date that obviated his objection; which led to acrimony of feeling, and an effort, though a fruitless one, for his removal. A humorous illustration of this characteristic was his persistence in spelling the name of the Territory *Wiskonsan*, which finally produced a joint resolution in the two Houses against the orthographic eccentricity. In 1861, the pioneer instinct still prevailing, he accepted appointment as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Utah, and was subsequently made Governor of that Territory, in which office he died June 13, 1865. Strong-willed and honest men in public life usually make enemies, but deserve the highest respect. Judge Doty earned and received a large measure from the people of Wisconsin. Especially among old settlers are coupled the names, although their political views antagonized, of Dodge and Doty, as the two pillars of the Territory.

Extinguishment of the Indian title to the southern half of the State and opening of the lands to purchase took place about the time of the Territorial establishment, and progress was soon rapid. The history of the Territory mainly presents the usual features of a new country in



JAMES D. DOTY.

From a daguerreotype in possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

active growth, with its people laying the foundations of local government and the institutions of the future State.

The first session of the Legislature convened at Belmont, and was chiefly agitated upon the location of the seat of government. Early separation of the trans-Mississippi country being obvious, the convenience of Wisconsin ruled action; and the choice, largely influenced by the sagacious discernment of Judge Doty, fell upon the site of Madison, midway between the river and Lake Michigan, and, though yet untouched by settlement, already known for its extraordinary natural beauty. The fortunate selection has made their capital city always an object of pride to the citizens of the State.

The country west of the Mississippi was, in fact, set off as the Territory of Iowa in 1838. The enabling act for Wisconsin passed in 1846, but it required a second constitutional convention to achieve a satisfactory organic law, and it was not until the 29th of May, 1848, that the thirtieth State was received to the Union. The constitution then adopted still remains, unchanged but by a few amendments.





NELSON DEWEY.

From a photograph by Curtis, Madison, Wisconsin.

Another prominent Territorial character was Charles Dunn, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during the entire period. Born in Kentucky in 1799, he removed at twenty to Illinois, where he completed his legal studies and pursued his profession until 1836, when, upon his appointment to the bench, he fixed his residence at Belmont, and there he died in 1872. Strong but gentle in character and manner, assiduously faithful to duty, of perfect integrity and purity, he was an able and just judge, universally and affectionately esteemed by the bar and the people.

The first Governor of the State was Nelson Dewey, one of the earliest settlers, who had made his way unaided, by sheer force of character and ability. He was peculiarly adapted to the task of organizing the State government, and moulded the form and conduct of its affairs with great wisdom and care for the interests of the people. Of strong but not showy personality, well-trained business habits, firm in principles, and laboriously faithful to duty, Governor Dewey has not been surpassed in the executive office. He was re-elected, and remained in service until

January, 1852. He afterward rendered public service of valuable but inconspicuous character, and died in the past year at Cassville, his residence for more than fifty years.

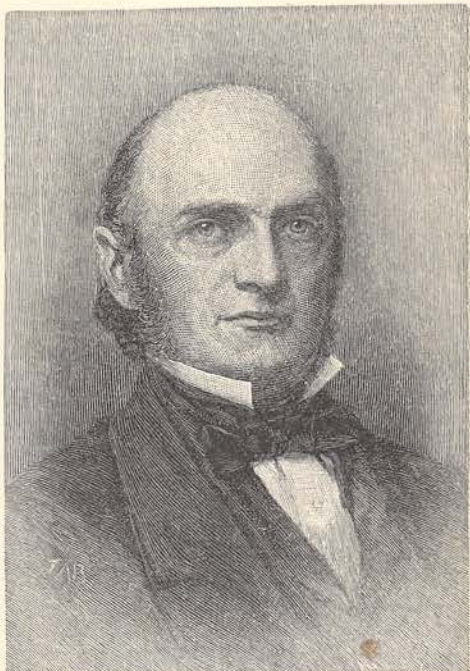
The rapid influx of population to Wisconsin in the earlier days is shown in remarkable figures. In August, 1836, after the Territorial organization, the total number was 11,683; four years later, 31,000; in 1850, over 300,000; and 776,000 in 1860. After that year the tide of immigration was checked, and the ratio of gain became less than in the adjoining prairie States of Illinois and Iowa. Natural and adventitious causes conspired to this retardation. Southward from Lake Superior, for 150 miles, dense forests covered the State, and the lower third only, roughly speaking, was readily accessible to settlement. The southern counties filled quickly to the point of saturation for agricultural purposes, and outside of the cities have gained in numbers but little since 1860. This part of the State was peculiarly attractive, being mostly prairies, interspersed with oak openings, handsome as well-kept parks, and occasional tracts of fine forest trees, while its climate is unexcelled, and upon the whole may well be

claimed the best for salubrity and comfort the temperate zone affords. Counting only the area substantially occupied during the early years, this country, perhaps the world, can show no instance of more rapid, healthy, and peaceful settlement. The subjugation of the northern forests, a slow task at the best, was further checked by the civil war, and the financial depression succeeding the business misfortunes of 1873. It resulted that for twenty years after 1860 the gain in population was less by over 200,000 than during the twenty years before, being little, if any, beyond natural increase, emigration and war losses counterbalancing immigration. Within recent years, however, the transformation of the northern region has been rapid, and the eleventh census raises the State from sixteenth to fourteenth on the scale of population, the enumeration, as last reported, reaching 1,687,000.

No State has been sought by a greater variety of immigrants—it may be doubted if any possesses representatives of so many races—and her mosaic citizenship comprises enterprising spirits from nearly all

civilized countries of the globe. Next after our own land, most is due to Germany, which has given us a greater proportion than to any other State of the Union, one-sixth of our people having been born in the communities comprehended by that empire, besides probably as many more of German parentage but native birth. It need not be added that liberty, good order, and industrial prosperity will mark the State in which such blood is potential. The Scandinavian countries hold next place among the sources of our strength, having directly furnished above one-seventeenth of our population, a proportion to be reckoned a tenth, or ninth, by counting also those of the race born here. No foreigners more readily assimilate the customs and speech of America, surpassing in easy pronunciation of English with freedom from foreign accent. About two and one-third per cent. of our people were born in Ireland, and nearly as many more in Great Britain. British America has supplied one and a half per cent., Bohemia one, and other nations less. The Poles of foreign birth number near 10,000, the Dutch 7000 or 8000, the French approach 4000. In the town of New Glarus, a compact Swiss colony of nearly 1700 has reproduced upon the prairie many of the usages and faithfully maintained the virtues of their native mountains. Other nations have also their representatives, and to the resident of a quiet New England valley, the roster of our public officers or the signs on business houses might present a strange and unpronounceable aspect. But our prodigality of invitation has been on the whole well justified by those who have accepted it, and still keeping warm the memory of father-lands, their superior allegiance and duty to the State they have made their children's fatherland are faithfully maintained. Distinctive peculiarities gradually wear away and almost disappear in children grown; political and business intercourse leads to commingling of blood and social interfusion; our free people support the institutions of freedom with gaining, not failing power; and in the happy brotherhood of so various parentage, the great fact is apparent which Paul spake, that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men."

Illustration of fitness for their liberties was given by the nature of the State's participation in the civil war. The call to arms not only evoked a prompt response of five times the required number, but the continuing duty of maintenance was unflinchingly fulfilled. Every national demand was met, and the State's aggregate quota for the war was exceeded by 1260. Including 5784 veteran re-enlist-



ALEXANDER W. RANDALL.

From the painting by William Cogswell, Executive Chamber, Madison.

ments, she had credit for 91,379 men. The significance of these figures is better seen by the fact that they stand for one-fifth of the male population of the time, old and young, and exceeded one-half of the voters of the State at the Presidential election of 1864, including those who voted in the field. These soldiers won honorable fame in every quarter to which our arms were carried. Their command was prized by the fighting generals, and their service was, in consequence, so widely distributed that every revolting State witnessed their valor and was honored by their blood. It would be a pleasing office to recount the special services and gallant exploits

of many who earned pre-eminent glory among our heroes. It is a story yet to be told with full justice, a story not less due the State than them. But the present is not the opportunity, and a partial tale or invidious mention would be a sin. Age fast masters the diminishing survivors of the war; a few years, and they will live in memory alone; but Wisconsin will ever have honor by the part she bore through the deeds of her soldiers in the struggle which preserved for men the government of liberty.

At the outbreak of the war the office of Governor was held by Alexander W. Randall. Quick of apprehension and ready in opinion and action, he was admirably suited to the hour. He declared at once, with eloquent patriotism, the devotion of Wisconsin to the Union, and the purpose of her people to fight for its integrity, in a tone and manner which drew national attention, and his prompt and efficient measures, well seconded by all, augmented the useful service of the State, and gave her character and standing.

Governor Randall was sent in 1862 as Minister to Rome; but after a year's residence abroad, accepted the post of First Assistant to Postmaster-General Denison. Upon Mr. Johnson's accession to the Presidency and Mr. Denison's resignation, he was appointed Postmaster-General, and served in the office to the end of that administration. He died in 1872 at Elmira, New York, before he finished his fifty-third year.

James R. Doolittle and Timothy O. Howe sat for Wisconsin in the United States Senate during the war period. There are interesting points of incidence in their careers. Judge Doolittle was the elder by a year, born January 3, 1815, in the State of New York, whence he came in 1851 to Wisconsin, with vigorous native powers ripened by liberal culture and years of practice at the bar. He was soon chosen to the Circuit Court bench, but resigned in 1856, after three years' service. Up to midsummer of that year he had been a Democrat, but he then announced his change, ably supported Mr. Fremont for President, and at once became prominent among Republicans.

Judge Howe was born in Maine, February 24, 1816, received there an academic and professional education, and served in the Legislature. In 1845 he removed to Green Bay. He also served as Circuit

Judge, and resigned in 1855. In youth a Whig, he had been a Republican from the party's birth, and his fine abilities as a lawyer and speaker had easily given him first place, so that when the Legislature of 1857 assembled, it was hardly doubted he would be elected Senator. But his judgment refused the doctrine then ruling in his party that the State might set at naught an enactment of Congress—that is to say, the Fugitive Slave Law—and defy federal authority; and this was vociferously asserted against him by Mr. Booth, a prominent editor then recently convicted for aiding the flight of a slave, but yet was not generally credited. It led the party caucus, although in it his friends were a strong plurality, to adopt resolutions expressive of the extreme view, and to require the response of candidates. He alone among them refused assent, nobly disdaining the coveted office at the cost of subserviency. The point was not one of difficulty to Judge Doolittle, and, though so recent a convert, his conspicuous abilities commanded his choice. After four years more, the South's practical application of their doctrine of State resistance operated a change of sentiment in the party, and in 1861 Judge Howe was elected Senator, to the keen gratification of many citizens, who, though they contested his political views, profoundly admired and honored the rectitude of the man. He was twice re-elected, serving the full eighteen years. He declined, in his last term, the proffered appointment of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, so it is said, from a sense of party duty, the opposition being then able to elect his successor. He went to Paris in 1881, as one of the government's Commissioners to the International Monetary Conference. In January, 1882, President Arthur called him to his cabinet as Postmaster-General; and while still in that duty he sickened, and died on the 25th of March, 1883, at Kenosha. Uprightly fixed in all his views, Judge Howe knew his friends and his enemies—having no enemies but in politics. From his opponents he exacted honor for his honesty, patriotism, and courage; by those he admitted to friendship he was loved and revered; and the people of the State hold him in honored memory.

To Judge Doolittle the trial of integrity came in turn, not as to his colleague to deny the Senatorial office in prospect, but

in even the harder way, to cut it off in the flush of enjoyment. During his second term he found his convictions in radical disagreement with the dominant opinion of his party, and, its majority in the State being overwhelming, he sacrificed by his unflinching obedience to his sense of duty a career of official distinction which otherwise his strong hold upon the esteem of the State must have secured to him for an indefinite period. He still resides at his old home in Racine; but mainly his professional service has been given to Chicago as the head of an eminent legal firm in that city. Such worthy marks of honor and confidence as were possible to the party in minority have been repeatedly proffered him, and the people have freely manifested their unabated respect for his character and powers. He still retains, at the venerable age of seventy-six, the vigor and faculties of mid-manhood, and the genial kindness of heart and manner, always characteristic of his intercourse, returns in universal tenderness from all who know him.

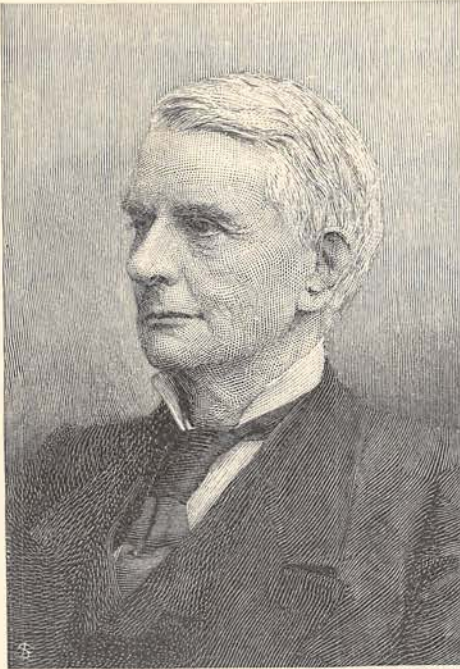
A fair survey of her natural resources and the occupations of her people would exhibit the State with justice and to the best advantage, but the necessary limits of this article allow but the merest glimpse. Husbandry engages, according to the census of 1880, between fourteen and fifteen per cent. (then nearly 200,000 persons) of the whole population. The proportion is less than the average of the United States, which exceeds fifteen per cent., and it will doubtless be found still diminished by the census of last year, owing to increase of other pursuits. Depression is severe in this avocation, in common with the country at large. Yet it is difficult to find reason for it in the farms, which appear as productive as ever. The trouble would be more serious but for the wise changes from the earlier methods of our agriculture and the greater range and variety of production. The cultivation of wheat, formerly the chief end of our farming, has been subordinated to better objects, and it now employs hardly three-fourths the acreage of corn, and not half that of oats. The wheat yield is still ten to twelve million bushels annually, but the corn exceeds twenty-two, and oats thirty-two millions. Nearly as much

barley is grown as wheat, and the usual other grains and grasses in abundance. These facts suggest the greater attention given to domestic animals, in which farmers have shown wisdom. The economy



JAMES R. DOOLITTLE.  
From a photograph by Mosher, Chicago.

of raising the best at whatever necessary cost no longer requires argument. Dairying has attained to much importance, the annual product of butter and cheese exceeding 60,000,000 pounds. The improvement of horses has been such in all classes that it is obvious to the ordinary observer. It may be shortly said, indeed, that, so much has animal culture been stimulated, there is hardly a species or breed of esteemed and valuable domestic animals, including bees and fowls, of which there are not now enterprising special breeders and importers in the State enjoying profitable success. Cranberries are indigenous to certain of the marshy lands, and their cultivation, which requires peculiar conditions and care, has yielded excellent results. Tobacco culture, more especially in the counties of Dane, Rock, and Green, is extensive, and, though subject to vexatious uncertainty



TIMOTHY OTIS HOWE.  
From a photograph by Bell, Washington.

of price, has upon the whole proven remunerative and helpful. In certain localities the grape has responded generously to intelligent care, and the smaller fruits usually do well. Apples and pears are grown in the southern portion, but require more care and are less hardy than in the Eastern States of the same latitude.

It was for a time supposed that the forest-covered region was generally unsuited to agriculture. A better acquaintance and the actual experiment, many farms being now in cultivation, have demonstrated that the greater portion is available for excellent husbandry. The woodsman who harvests nature's great crop is making way for the planting of man, and the cleared fields will be occupied, with adaptation to the circumstances, perhaps as usefully as the prairies.

The timber which has until recent years been the main source of profit in the great forests is pine. No other wood so well subserves the various demands of new settlements for building, fencing, and other immediate needs. Its lightness makes its transportation easy, and its location in vast quantities upon the numerous rivers which rise near Lake Superior

and thence descend to the prairies is significant of great design. That no reproduction of the valuable pine takes place, a worthless species only springing up in its stead, seems a pregnant testimony that the purpose of this great provision was for temporary uses, more durable mineral material being substituted in after-developed prosperity. The active business of the timber country turns on logging and manufacturing this wood, and in the number of men engaged, the extent of operations and value of product, it stands next to agriculture. Immense as is the annual consumption, many years will be required to exhaust the generous supply of nature.

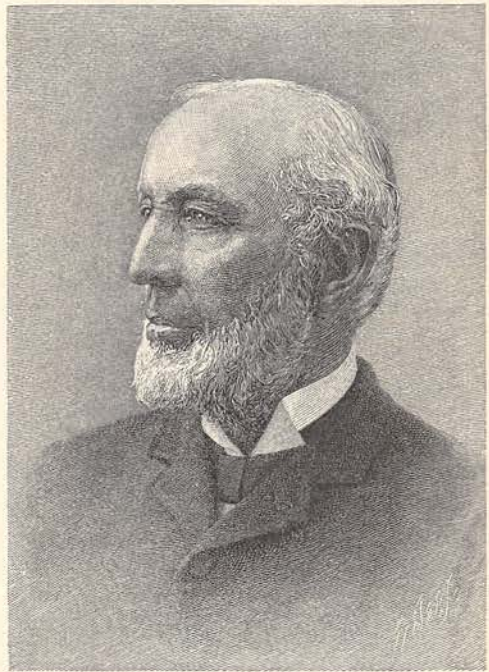
The pine is but one of the useful trees of the forest. Other evergreens, the cedar and balsam, spruce, fir, and hemlock, are there in plenty; and the hard-wood timber—and much of the finest pine grows in the midst of the hard-woods—is, perhaps, of greater value than the pine. Manufacturing of the other woods is now well established, and its increasing importance promises generations to come a vast source of wealth and profitable industry. The oak, maple, ash, cherry, walnut, butternut, hickory, birch, and many others which grow in abundance, yield material adaptable to more varied uses than the pine, and will long survive it as manufacturing stock.

With the exception of such as relate to lead and zinc, the mineral industries of Wisconsin may fairly be said to be yet mostly in their infancy. Discoveries of rich promise have been many, particularly of iron, and mining enough has been done to demonstrate that the mineral ores are so abundant that industrial avocations of great consequence will spring from their possession. In the counties of Dodge and Sauk, in the southern portion of the State, valuable but not generally extensive mines of iron have been worked for a long time. But only seven or eight years have passed since the mining district of the Gogebic range was inaccessible and almost unknown. Within that time many rich mines of Bessemer ores have been opened, and two railroads built to carry out their product, while exploration continues eager, and fresh discoveries from time to time occur. The deduc-

tions of geology have had such proof in results secured that demonstration of its still richer anticipations seems only to require continuance of the energy of pursuit. The city of Ashland, not far from Allouez's first mission across the Chequamegon Bay, was, at the taking of the tenth census, a hamlet of a few hundred people almost isolated from the world. Its population now is estimated at 20,000; four railroads enter it, and numerous lumber mills fill the air with the quaver of machinery; it possesses in active operation a charcoal blast-furnace said to be the largest in the world; three great ore docks handled and shipped to the East in the last year over 2,000,000 tons of ore, and the spires that tell of busy commerce rise beside the long piers thrust from its coast. With the forest wall still surrounding the view on the landward side, the stump stubble of nature's fields fringing the town and crowding its vacant spaces, and, as one may fancy, the primeval spirits of the air yet hovering there, the spectacle of handsome modern buildings, gas and electric lighting, excellent water-works, horse-cars in the streets, moves the contemplative observer to interesting reflection. And this may be taken for a type and expression of the mighty stir of enterprise and industry which within a decade has penetrated with universal agitation the vast woods that have maintained their silent, majestic dignity for ages beyond reach of the retrospect of man.

No valuable deposits of other ores than iron have yet been brought to light in northern Wisconsin. Geologists affirm, however, that the course of the copper-bearing rocks in which lie the rich mines upon Keweenaw Point in Michigan runs in well-marked ranges southwardly from Lake Superior through Wisconsin, and the possibility of future copper-mining is scientifically shown—a possibility only, but perhaps as well justifying exploration as before discovery was presented by that part of the series in which copious wealth has been found. But the science stands opposed to any likelihood that the precious metals lie beneath our soil, and the expectation sometimes so highly excited cannot but be thought chimerical.

Even so rapid a glance at our subterranean resources must take observation of the non-metallie minerals. The clay from which are baked the fine cream-colored bricks known as Milwaukee brick, because first made there, exists in many localities, and a now long experience has proven them as useful and durable as they are pleasing to the eye. That clay which carries trace enough of iron to give the red color also abounds, and the manufacture of both sorts is extensive. No mineral of the State for the uses of architecture equals in beauty and excellence, however, the brownstone of Lake Superior. Its hue is usually of a reddish-brown, not sombre, but light of aspect, and it harmonizes or contrasts well with other material, and presents alone a fine appearance. Numerous quarries are open, shipments go to remote cities of the country, and this trade enlarges every year. Excellent stone of many other kinds is quarried in different parts, among which is a granite much esteemed, and marble, rated of inferior quality. Altogether, the stores of building material are as various and ample as the tastes and necessities of an old and wealthy civilization



JEROME I. CASE.

From a photograph by Thomas, Racine.

may be thought to hereafter reasonably require.

Kaolin, suitable with proper treatment for fire-brick and porcelain-ware, exists in sufficient plenty for extensive manufacture, but as yet awaits the attention of enterprise and skill for its profitable use. Cement-producing rock, limestone, and



ALEXANDER MITCHELL.

glass sand are embraced in the list of nature's useful gifts to the State, and cement and lime are made of good quality.

Such a store of natural material, above and below the surface predetermined the importance of manufacturing among Wisconsin industries. Transportation is so great a factor in production that competition requires the difference in freight of raw material and finished product to be saved, when possible, by planting the factory at the source of supply. The spirit of enterprise is contagious, and various advantages attach to the convenient contiguity of manufacturing establishments, although different in character. Many cities in the State are now the seats of active transforming industries, and the objects of production are numerous. The

hard-wood of the forest goes chiefly to furniture, wagon and carriage stock, agricultural implements, interior building material, and cooperage purposes. The construction of vehicles of every sort required by the affairs, convenience, or pleasure of men has attained great proportions, and large establishments in different towns maintain a trade extending to the limits of the country.

The manufacture of the tools and implements of husbandry comprehends nearly every species and form of the wonderful machinery which has so nearly transformed the farm to a factory, and delivered to ancient memories and poetic uses much of the toilsome drudgery by which our patient forefathers sorely won their scanty recompense from nature. It is carried on in above eighty establishments in different quarters of the State, but most prominently in the city of Racine. Long ago for Wisconsin, while the flail still flogged the too plenteous sheaves, an ingenious young mechanic built a threshing-machine for neighborhood use. It was a boon of mercy to farmers, and happily the resulting demand was addressed to a man of enterprise as well as ingenuity. From small beginnings, with courage and thrift, he raised the great establishment which has spread these useful machines, and the name of Jerome I. Case, to almost every quarter of the grain-growing world, and, still maintaining their superior excellence by constant improvement, finds a demand for many thousands

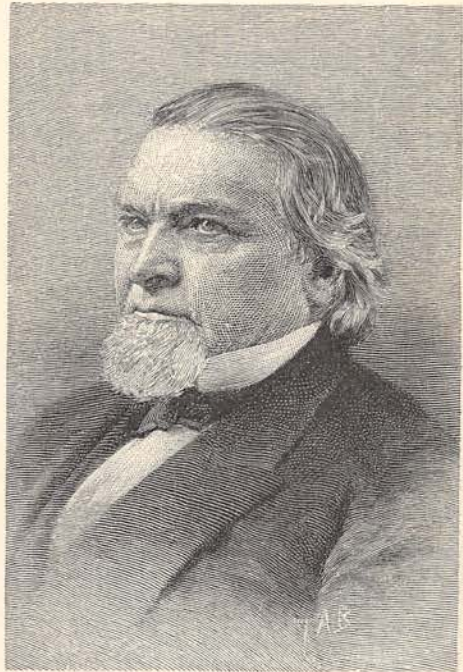
every year. This proved a nucleus for other industries, and the energetic and skilful men who have gathered there have made Racine a city of manufacturing mechanics, approaching 25,000 in population, possessing numerous factories for a wide variety of objects, and manifesting the unmistakable aspect of high intelligence and prosperity. Mr. Case still lives there in enjoyment of his deserved fortune, and has amused his later years by rearing fine horses, one of them being the famous little trotter Jay Eye See.

Large tanneries are in operation at several places in the State, and the production of leather is considerable. The accessibility of the bark supply and the facilities for obtaining hides render the location advantageous for this business,

which, though requiring large capital, commonly returns large gains.

Many mills for the manufacture of woollen goods are in active operation, and at least one prosperous concern has engaged in cotton manufacture. At Bay View, a suburb of Milwaukee, are extensive rolling-mills and furnaces for production of iron, and many establishments of iron-workers, though of less extent, are maintained in different localities.

The region of Lake Winnebago and the lower Fox is especially attractive to manufacturing. Fond du Lac, at the head of the lake, and Oshkosh, midway on its western side, at the mouth of the Wolf River, have from an early period been prominent in the lumber trade and kindred industries. The Fox flows from the northern extremity of the lake, with a strong current and in copious volume, the uniformity of which is so guaranteed by the large reservoir from which it issues that only a succession of dry seasons can materially affect its force. The river thence descends until near Green Bay upon such an inclination that its power for driving machinery is continuously enormous, and the succession of suitable sites for dams and mills renders nearly its entire course available to use. The general government made a grant of lands at an early day to aid its improvement for navigation, and in the prosecution of this object the company to which it was intrusted constructed many dams convenient for delivery of the force of the stream to the driving-wheels of the mills. Rapid development has taken place, and the valley is fast filling to its limits with mills and factories. The river-banks are generally high and bluff, broken here and there by descending ravines, in places covered with trees, elsewhere with grassy verdure, and affording picturesque vistas, to which the numerous constructions by which the flood is put to work add effectively, the whole scene being of great beauty and interest. The objects of the industries are various, but the chief is paper, the aggregate daily production of which exceeds considerably, so it is said, any other paper-making locality in the United States. The aspect of this river when its harness shall become complete—not a distant day—will



C. C. WASHBURN.

From a photograph by Curtiss, Madison.

be among the most pleasing spectacles the country affords.

Other rivers furnish water-power of great value, as yet but slightly used. Particularly the Wisconsin is to be mentioned as one whose valley will some day teem with productive industries.

Ours would perhaps be commonly spoken of as an agricultural rather than a manufacturing State. The converse is probably now the fact, if all be reckoned who are fairly to be regarded as engaged in manufacture, or the value of products be compared. So many points naturally invite this form of industry that the manufacturing interests are diffused among numerous places of the State—a beneficial thing, but diminishing their apparent consequence until their large aggregate be summed. However it presently be, the promise of the future is favorable to the superiority of the manufacturing interests.

The railroads now afford the State so ample transportation service that comparatively little extension remains desirable. Their aggregate length is about 5425 miles, and but three counties are un-



touched by the rails—one in the forest and upon the course of lines projected, the other two being on the isolated peninsula which separates Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Four lines between Chicago and St. Paul traverse the State, eight cross it from east to west, four descend through it from Lake Superior, and shorter roads bring nearly all parts into convenient use of the general system. It may be doubted, indeed, whether the in-



MATTHEW H. CARPENTER.  
From a photograph by Bell, Washington.

terests of rival companies have not increased the total mileage by needless construction to the disadvantage of the public in the added burden of their maintenance. One can hardly study the railroad map without thinking it might have been better for all interests if routes had been wisely prescribed with more reference to the common good, instead of having been left to the operation of the motives which have at times governed construction. The two dominant companies are known to Wall Street as the Granger roads—the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul, and the Chicago and Northwestern. The former

possesses above 1330 miles in Wisconsin, the latter nearly 950. Both own lines extending through many other States, the aggregate of each system, with its dependencies, approximating 6000 miles. These are the great trunk lines of the Northwest, binding the expanse between Lake Michigan and the Missouri, and gathering the trade and produce of a vast region beyond. The St. Paul was, by reason of two men, more particularly a Wisconsin road, and has been a large contributor to Wisconsin interests. These were S. S. Merrill, its general manager, and Alexander Mitchell, its president. Mr. Merrill was a strong example of a strong man, who rose from the lowest ranks of the service to the management of this road, and ruled it till his death. Mr. Mitchell presided over its growth and fortune, almost from its beginning, until his lamented decease in 1887. They fixed and kept its head-quarters in Milwaukee, and ever made it auxiliary to the interests of that city.

The foregoing is but a mere side look across the field of Wisconsin labor, rather than a bird's-eye view that, though swiftly, might observe the whole aspect. So much necessarily fails to appear that, without consideration and allowance, but short measure can be taken of the character and extent of material prosperity the State has attained and holds in prospect. A single additional object of view, even better illustrative, can be given a brief attention. Sharing the benefit of the wise federal policy that sought to promote education by grants of the public domain, the State upon its admission received the sixteenth section of every township for the use of common schools, and seventy-two sections, or two whole townships, for endowment of a State university. Had these gifts been husbanded with fidelity to the interests to which they were pledged, generous funds might have been realized. The eagerness for immigration characteristic of new communities, aided by some self-seeking, caused the sale of most of these lands at government price, realizing not more than one-third of what should have been their product. But the fault of the early days gave opportunity to the more enlightened spirit which now animates an intelligent and prosperous peo-

ple, and the injury has been nobly repaired by laws which levy a permanent annual tax of a mill in the dollar on the entire assessment of the State, yielding nearly \$600,000, for increase of the income of the common-school fund, and another of one-eighth of a mill for addition to the yearly revenues of the university, besides other aids, and a cordial warmth of interest not less nourishing than money. The common-school fund is now three millions, and gains something yearly from the proceeds of fines, forfeitures, and escheats. The income of it, augmented by the tax, is approximately \$800,000, and its distribution proportionably to school-children is made to no district which has not raised by tax in the year the equivalent at least of its distributive share. Few districts fail to raise much more; so that the total expenditure for public schools, including the cities, now amounts to three and one-half millions each year.

To provide the instruction of teachers, the State set apart one-half the swamp and overflowed lands granted by the general government in aid of drainage, as a fund for support of normal schools. This was a wiser use than that purposed by Congress, and, though a departure from the trust, has met with merited acquiescence by the federal authorities. Upon this foundation five excellent institutions, under government of a common board of regents, are actively at work, and the university also gives instruction in didactics. A most useful system of institutes, holden throughout the State, assists in self-culture the teachers in service. These provisions mark increasing recognition of the important truth that teaching is a high profession to which persons of talent should be engaged, not for temporary relief, but as a life avocation, and that in the proper uplifting of that profession in ambition, scope, and rewards wisdom must largely rest hope for the thorough diffusion of knowledge which will elevate the race. Teachers are now admitted to service only after satisfactory examination, which, especially for the higher grades, is exacting; a worthy *esprit de corps* gains increasing power; and year by year useful progress yields encouragement for the gigantic task that confronts this profession.

A system of free high-schools has been

established, stimulated by State bounty, with good effects. Many are well equipped and fully graded, bear the fair rank of academies, and qualify their graduates directly for the university. Question is still occasionally raised of the right of the State to provide more than a common-school education for her children; but public opinion is steadfast that the knowledge which is the safe stay of liberty and civilization cannot be too thorough and abundant, and in hope for the day when the best shall be common, the State should proffer the best she can to all who will accept it now, and the rule of free tuition wisely governs the university not less than the district schools. In above six thousand school-houses distributed throughout the State is fixed the base of the educational system; the high-schools already number one hundred and fifty, shaping the upward course, with convenient gradation, to the university as the head.

This institution is located at Madison, upon a site of great natural beauty, with ample grounds of nearly two hundred and fifty acres in area, stretching over undulating hills along the coast of Lake Mendota. No seat of learning anywhere is more "beautiful for situation," and the wise providence of the State rapidly promotes its emulation of the best in all essentials of excellence. The national provision for an agricultural college was added to its endowment, and the university then undertook instruction in agriculture and the mechanical arts. The combination has proven fortunate, and, while the humanities suffer no lack of attention or consequence, its usefulness has been greatly augmented by fostering helpful scientific understanding of practical pursuits not long ago regarded beyond the pale of collegiate learning. Not failing to press upward the standard of all education, the university now holds down a helping hand to all the youth of the State, and its relation to the educational system is no longer distant, but close, cordial, and beneficent. No other similar institution in the country enjoys so large a proportional attendance from the State which maintains it—a clear proof of its benefits, as well as of popular appreciation. Co-education of the sexes, so absolutely free that entrance, class service, and graduation are common to both upon precisely the same terms, has now been the rule for a quarter of a century, and with such

advantage that question is no longer raised of its value or propriety. It has been our good fortune to have largely escaped the distraction and enervation which have sometimes elsewhere befallen public agencies for higher education from independent establishments under exclusive control of different religious sects—although several usefully exist—or the futile efforts of wealthy men to cheaply gain remembrance by half endowing some weakling college; and in every particular of usefulness and strength the superiority of the public system stands here indisputable and dominant. The greater security of the public foundation over a memorial benefaction is shown by all history, and the utility of educational gifts is vastly enhanced when made auxiliary instead of rival and hostile to the general scheme of the State. Tribute is due, in this connection, to the memory of Cadwallader C. Washburn, who will be remembered as the giver to the university of a great instrumentality for the advancement of science, the Washburn Astronomical Observatory, long after the ephemeral glory of public station and personal consequence during a brief day and generation, so commonly the fatuous aim of ambitious effort, has faded to oblivion. Governor Washburn also rendered eminent service to the State and nation. For five terms, at different periods, he sat in the House of Representatives—one of the famous three brothers sitting together there from three several States, followed later by a fourth—was a Major-General of Volunteers in the civil war, and afterward Governor of the State. And better still than his excellent service was his example of unsullied public integrity and fidelity to public trust—a character beyond reach of the mean envy that so often barks at eminence in virtue and achievement.

Care for the blind and the deaf and dumb has provided two distinct establishments for their education, of sufficient capacity to embrace within their compass all intractable persons of either affliction within the State, and both aim to employ the most helpful methods of human kindness and skill. For the cure and comfort of the insane the State maintains two hospitals, and, with State contribution, Milwaukee County one, the three sufficient for 1400 patients. Besides these, twenty county asylums have been con-

structed for the care more especially of the incurable insane, under a law for encouragement of this system, which is peculiar to Wisconsin, by means of which the public compassion may now adequately reach out to every "mind diseased."

Separate reform schools for the criminal or vagabond youth of both sexes seek to save as much as to punish, while prisons are used for the elder offenders; and in all, humanity, not vengeance, inspires discipline, a spirit marked on our statute-book by freedom from the denunciation of death to any offender.

Government of the institutions maintained by the State is vested in a State Board of Supervision, under fair salaries, while the State Board of Charities and Reform exercises general censorship over all the eleemosynary, correctional, and penal establishments within our borders. In these measures of education and charity the thoughtful person will be apt to find the best evidence of true prosperity amidst the people.

To the roll of honored names in Wisconsin, the judiciary and the bar have furnished their customary share. The constitution committed the choice of judges to the people, and for limited terms. Their election is made in the spring, however, when partisan influences have less force, and generally with fortunate results. The wise rule that a good judge shall be re-elected, irrespective of political considerations, so long as he will serve, has become so fixed in common sentiment and custom that party whips cannot drive good citizens to its violation, and the attempt, even, is now an ancient story. The separate Supreme Court was organized in 1853, and since the expiration of the first terms of the Associate Justices, more than thirty years ago, although at times special interests have been stirred by necessary decisions to violent effort, no justice has been defeated at the polls, or left the bench but by voluntary resignation or the call of death. Four Chief Justices have presided in the Court with general approbation—Edward V. Whiton, Luther S. Dixon, Edward G. Ryan, and Orsamus Cole.

No man has gained the State a greater illustration beyond her borders than Matt. H. Carpenter. For many years he was a conspicuous figure in the nation, a leading counsel in celebrated causes before the highest tribunals, a Senator of acknowledged eminence among his fellows, and

for a time acting Vice-President. In every relation the riches of his intellect, the bold spirit of his conduct, the graces of his manner, commanding respectful attention to his opinions, and charming all to admiration of his brilliant personality. Great as were his natural gifts, his capacity for labor, itself an unusual endowment, was unsparingly pressed to increase their usefulness, so that he appeared to advantage in the performance of every duty. No man had more attached friends, and though he encountered opposition in political life, it was little mixed with rancor, which could not withstand the genial warmth of his presence and kindness. Mr. Carpenter began his professional practice at Beloit in 1848, but removed to Milwaukee eight years after, and there his grave is tenderly kept. He was chosen Senator in 1869, to succeed Judge Doolittle, was nominated in party caucus for reelection in 1875, but failed because of a combination between the opposition and some recalcitrants on his own side, which resulted in the choice of Mr. Cameron. On the happening of the next vacancy, in 1879, he was again elected, and his death befell him during the term, on February 24, 1881.

Philetus Sawyer and John C. Spooner now sit for Wisconsin in the Senate of the United States.\* Mr. Sawyer was born in Vermont in 1816, but passed his youth in New York. In his thirty-first year he settled in Oshkosh, where his business career has been prosperous, mainly in lumbering, and he has amassed great riches. He served his city as Mayor and member of the State Legislature, for ten years was a Representative in Congress, and is now in his second term as Senator, having been first chosen in 1881.

Colonel Spooner, though born in Indiana, received his education in the State university, from which he was graduated in 1864, at the age of twenty-one, and enjoys the noble distinction of being first of her foster-children to bring her the honors of the Senate.

Our praise to Nature for her bountiful favor would be mean indeed if her gifts of material wealth alone inspired it. By salubrity of climate, abundance of wholesome water in streams and lakes and springs, and the most pleasing landscapes, she has marked her purpose to make the State a delectable home for man.

\* This article goes to press before the session of the Wisconsin Legislature.

In general configuration the surface has been likened to a hipped roof. A water-shed of no great height stretches east and west, about thirty miles south from Lake Superior; and from that, at right angles, the line of highest ground passes southwardly through the middle of the State, descending as it goes, until it fades out of notice in the prairies of the southern border. The apex or junction of these lines of water-shed stands near the Montreal River, and rises only 1200 feet above the level of the lakes; but the descent to Superior is sharp enough to give rapid current to the frequent streams upon the northern slope, thus often broken into beautiful cascades. To the southeast and to the southwest alike the surface inclines with gentle declivity, not perceptible to the eye except in the flow of the rivers that wander in their long courses to the borders of the State on the lake and the Mississippi. No mountains add either sublimity to our scenery or isolation and severity to the lives of our people. But the superficial aspect is varied and relieved in outline by occasional hills, numerous streams, and especially by small lakes, which, to the number of thousands, dot the landscape like gems upon a handsome robe. For the most part these are of pleasing beauty, their waters supplied from springs fresh and wholesome, and filled with fine fish. The forests still contain game, but after it shall disappear the sportsman will find plentiful gratifications for rod and line in the lakes and streams; and year after year multiplies the number of tourists and summer residents who seek the delights of repose among scenes so blessed by nature.

Resulting, perhaps, from the surface shape, the privilege of artesian wells, from which streams of excellent water flow with force, is enjoyed in many places on either side of the State. At Racine and Kenosha, on Lake Michigan, such wells supply the public systems of water-works, by their own unaided force and volume carrying an abundant stream through all the ramification of pipes to the very tops of buildings. At Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi, a flood sufficient almost to drive machinery pours vehemently from such a well; and many others, though of lesser power, exist elsewhere. The healing springs of the State are already famous. They issue from the earth in several places, but those of Wau-

kesha have highest celebrity, and the bottled waters of Bethesda are drank on both continents.

The State is on three sides bordered with the beautiful scenery of the Great Lakes and a majestic river, in a charming succession of water landscapes that only artists of the pen and pencil can suitably tell the merit of, while its interior is as richly endowed to please the senses and gratify

the tastes as to minister to the comforts of men. Summarizing with these all the other evidences which have been, though but unsatisfactorily, mentioned, can more be wanting to manifest the design of Heaven, to which from long aforetime the forces of nature have labored, that here shall be for a duration beyond all pre-science of man an intelligent, prosperous, happy State?

## THE MOTHER.

BY WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

### I.

IT was April, blossoming spring,  
 They buried me, when the birds did sing;  
 Earth, in clammy wedging earth,  
 They banked my bed with a black, damp girth.  
 Under the damp and under the mould,  
 I kenned my breasts were clammy and cold.  
 Out from the red beams, slanting and bright,  
 I kenned my cheeks were sunken and white.  
 I was a dream, and the world was a dream,  
 And yet I kenned all things that seem.  
 I was a dream, and the world was a dream,  
 But you cannot bury a red sunbeam.  
 For though in the under-grave's doom-night  
 I lay all silent and stark and white,  
 Yet over my head I seemed to know  
 The murmurous moods of wind and snow,  
 The snows that wasted, the winds that blew,  
 The rays that slanted, the clouds that drew  
 The water-ghosts up from lakes below,  
 And the little flower-souls in earth that grow.  
 Under earth, in the grave's stark night,  
 I felt the stars and the moon's pale light.  
 I felt the winds of ocean and land  
 That whispered the blossoms soft and bland.  
 Though they had buried me dark and low  
 My soul with the season's seemed to grow.

### II.

I was a bride in my sickness sore,  
 I was a bride nine months and more.  
 From throes of pain they buried me low,  
 For death had finished a mother's woe.  
 But under the sod, in the grave's dread doom,  
 I dreamed of my baby in glimmer and gloom.  
 I dreamed of my babe, and I kenned that his rest  
 Was broken in wailings on my dead breast.