

GOD'S DOING AND MAN'S DOING

FOR

MINISOTA

A Thanksgiving Discourse,

PREACHED IN

*NORTHFIELD, MIN.,*

BY

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# DISCOURSE

*“The Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains, and depths; \* \* \* a land of wheat, \* \* \* and vines, \* \* \* and honey; \* \* \* thou shalt not lack anything in it.”—DEUT. VIII, 7-9.*

Earth is the nursing-mother of whatever lives. Out of the *land*—ultimately—springs every means of subsistence. Of material goods, therefore, the best of all is a good land.

And so when the God of the Hebrews would eloquently express his love for the nation, he transfers to them the title-deed of a good land, wealthy in natural resources, beautiful with natural charms,—a land of brooks and fountains and depths; a land of wheat and vines and honey; in which there was lack of nothing.

What ancient Palestine was, in the conception of the Israelites—the cream of all lands,—such doubtless to you, Fellow-Citizens, thirty-three centuries later, is the magnificence of the Upper North-west.

This also is the gift of God: may we not worthily admire the gift, admire the giving, admire the Giver in both the giving and the gift? And as what Minisota has, suggests what she needs; as what Minisota is, suggests what she ought to become,—we do well so to expand our survey as to cover the whole field, namely—

WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR MINISOTA, AND WHAT GOD LEAVES MAN TO DO FOR HER.

## GOD'S DOING.

## WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR MINISOTA?

AMPLITUDE OF AREA.—He has endowed her with the first of grandeurs, the first of luxuries, amplitude of space. Her territory\* is capable of division into as many as sixty-four several parts, each of which should be as large as the State of Rhode Island. She outmeasures Massachusetts eleven times, and she might twice absorb Louisiana or Cuba. Her area exceeds that of England and Scotland together; and it is more than twice that of Holland, Greece and Belgium combined.

AGRICULTURAL CAPACITIES.—And it has pleased God to endow this imperial expanse of territory with the most sumptuous agricultural capacities. Its surface † has been so fashioned as to be just about rolling enough to secure proper drainage at little or no expense. Its acres are rich in organic matter, not only, but also, in those mineral salts which hasten the growth of plants, and which render fertility durable. The soil of the slopes and ridges has a depth of from one to two feet, and the soil of the valley-bottoms and Big Woods is from two to four feet, while the vegetable loam of the Red River is from two to ten feet. A competent pen ‡ instructs us that the fertility of this Upper Mississippi is not surpassed by whatever is anywhere most eminent—San Joaquin, Ganges, Nile or Yangtze. And this fertility of soil is efficiently aided by a propitious climate. Not only is the growing season exempt from long cold storms, but Minisota is less liable than Illinois and Ohio to the ravages of late spring and early autumnal frosts, while its high northern latitude gives it a day of sixteen hours,—the same day at New Orleans having but fourteen. Besides, it is a doctrine of climatologists that “The cultivated

\* On the supposition of 84,000 square miles. Complete surveys may reduce the figures somewhat.

† The *general* slope of two-thirds of the State (though mostly imperceptible) is towards the south-east.

‡ Carleton.

plants yield the greatest products near the northernmost limits at which they will grow.”—It is noteworthy also, in this connection, that your bountiful prairies have been so created as to need no cleansing of trees, roots and stones. They are ready-made tillage-lands, and invite the plough to instant furrowing.

*Spontaneous Products.*—The spontaneous products of the soil indicate its temper. Nearly every variety of berries; wild grapes most abundant; wild plums—scarcely inferior to the cultivated varieties, and sent to market by the hundred bushels; a growth of cranberries which is wonderful, and which formerly earned for Minisota the title of “The Cranberry State”\*—the acreage of such fruit westward of the St. Croix alone being sixty-six times as broad as the town of Northfield; wild potatoes, also, Indian turnips, and native teas; multitudinous fields of wild rice, † single fields covering thousands of acres, each acre yielding as much sustenance as an acre of wheat, and its quality superior to the rice of the Carolinas; a luxuriant growth of fine grass on unlimited breadths of natural meadow; ‡ and, finally, (who could forget *them*?) the ubiquitous groves and belts of timber, the Big Woods § distended from Crow Wing to Mankato and Faribault—a hundred miles by forty, and the pineries || of the north—more extensive than the territory of Vermont and New Hampshire, and overspreading just one-quarter of the State.

*Fruitfulness under Culture.*—These spontaneous crops, which were sown and planted by the hand of God, have not only great intrinsic value, but they publish an eloquent hint as to the quality of the soil. And this hint is developed by arti-

\* Other titles are “The Gopher State” and “The North Star State.”

† The latter part of August, the Indians push in amongst the rice, and bending the laden heads over, thrash their canoes full of the grain,—scaring innumerable water-fowl that quack and twitter, and flap about, gorged almost to suffocation.

‡ 430,000 tons cut in 1868; over two tons per acre. Wild hay is preferred to “tame,” at least for horses.

§ “Embrace the richest arable land in the Northwest;” 4,000 square miles north of Minisota River, 1,000 south.

|| North of 46 degrees, and east of Red Lake; scattered trees, groves and dense forests; 21,000 square miles.

ficial culture. With what conclusion? Here is a land that returns an excellent growth of corn, a growth of oats and of vegetables which is not surpassed south or east, and a growth of wheat,\* which—despite unskillful and slovenly culture—surpasses any other this side the Rocky Mountains. Here is a land which also yields an excellent return of fruits, especially of grapes and of plums,—nay, even of apples; over two hundred varieties have been exhibited at a single fair, and Gov. Marshall has predicted that in less than ten years, Minisota will be an apple-exporting State.

*Distribution of Advantages.*—But God has crowned this splendid assortment of agricultural advantages with another, *to wit*: a universal distribution of them, such that the natural elements of an attractive homestead—prairie, meadow and timber, with pure water and pleasant scenery,—are clustered in almost every locality. Illinois has prairie, Canada forest, the Nile country meadow, Switzerland scenery; but Minisota combines them all, and so does each of its divisions and subdivisions,—though of course there are exceptional instances, and of considerable magnitude.

*ADAPTATION TO MANUFACTURES.*—It pleased God, in creating Minisota, to make extraordinary provision not only for agriculture, but also for manufactures. Think of her raw material—her mines of iron, copper and coal (just discovered); her quarries of brownstone, limestone, slate and granite; her thousands of square miles of elm, ash, oak, maple, black-walnut and other hard woods; her thousands, her tens of thousands of square miles of pine; her surplusage of grain, amounting to twenty million bushels,† though only one-thirtieth of her acreage is under cultivation; then, her lying in the midst of the wool-producing zone, and her easy communication, through the Mississippi, with the sources of the cotton-supply. Think

\* Seventeen bushels per acre is the established average.—Winona is the fourth primary grain-market in the United States, Milwaukee, Chicago and Toledo leading.

† In 1858 the State imported its flour.

again, and think especially, of her water-power, vast, immense in its capacity, and perhaps unparalleled\* in the universality of its distribution.

*FACILITIES FOR COMMERCE.*—It pleased God, moreover, in creating Minisota, to make extraordinary provision for commerce. She occupies, approximately, the centre of the continent, the great seas east, west, north and south being swept by a radius of about two thousand miles. Three great river-systems, two of them the largest in North America, have their head-waters in Minisota. Paddle a canoe from the Arctic through Hudson's Bay and up the Red River, carry it over a prairie three miles, and drop it into the Mississippi to drift with its current to the Gulf,—and you will have traversed the entire length of the continent from sea to sea—by water alone—with a portage of only three miles.† And then the head-waters of the St. Lawrence are separated from the waters of the Mississippi only by a sandy plain six miles wide. Now the steam-navigation of all these converging water-channels terminates in Minisota—the Mississippi ‡ from the Gulf northward, the St. Lawrence (with its chain of lakes) from the Atlantic westward, the Red River from Hudson's Bay (and the Arctic Ocean) southward. Thus through the waters of Minisota, the tropic land of the orange-tree, the cotton-plant and the sugar-cane, is connected with the frozen land of furs, the otter, the beaver, the buffalo, while also both are in the same way connected with the sunrise-land of manufactures. [Note, also, in passing, that we are soon to have, from the Pacific westward, the Northern Pacific Railroad, closely connecting us with the sunset-land of silk and tea.] Within the limits of the State,§ the Mississippi is navigable about two

\* Unless by New England.

† Between branches of the Minisota and Red Rivers.

‡ The Indians called the Mississippi "The Great Water," and the Indians living along it, "The Men of the Sea."

§ The Mississippi forms 134 miles of the eastern boundary, the St. Croix 129. The Red River forms 397 miles of the western boundary.

hundred miles below St. Paul, and four hundred miles above ; the Red River about four hundred miles ; the St. Lawrence, as expanded in Lake Superior, one hundred and sixty miles. The navigable waters of the State have a shore-line of twenty-seven hundred miles.† Such commercial advantages no other inland region possesses.

But there is more to say. Transportation by water costing only about one-third that by land,‡ it has been estimated that our frontage on Lake Superior is equivalent to a saving of eight hundred and eighty-two miles of railway transportation, between here and New York ;§ while Minisota is, practically, as near New York, by water, as Illinois is.

*The World's Highway.*—And the shortest route to China, from either London, New York or Chicago,|| lies through Minisota. The northern route from New York to the Pacific is five hundred miles shorter than the central, and Puget's Sound is at least seven hundred miles nearer China than San Francisco is ; so that New York is not less than twelve hundred miles nearer China by the northern route than by the central. And Capt. Syngé has shown that London is two thousand miles nearer China by the Northern Pacific than by any other route. Such commercial pre-eminence has the God of nature conferred upon Minisota.

**HEALTHFULNESS.**—It pleased God, in forming Minisota, to make the rarest provision for healthfulness. One has well said that health and wheat—life and the staff of life,—are the chief attractions of Minisota. But life is more than wheat, and salubrity of climate attracts far more strongly than prolific soil, or facilities for sporting, or scenic beauty. Indeed, your State is a commonwealth of invalids and ex-invalids, and their families,—the grand sanitarium for North America. Even irrational

† A water-line of 1,500 miles.

‡ Taking canal rates as a standard.

§ Carriage by water from Red Wing to New York is no more expensive than carriage by railroad from Pittsburgh to New York, (442 miles).

|| Chicago is 673 miles further from San Francisco than Duluth is from Puget's Sound.

animals, sheep, cattle,\* horses, † here enjoy unusual health. Babes, also, and children share the general blessing. The world's death-rate is twenty-two in every thousand ; yours is less than half that. You have neither pulmonary disease, the scourge of the East, nor the scourge of the West, fever and ague, (unless by importation.) And so from the miasmatic atmosphere of the interior, and from the moist, chilly, variable atmosphere of the Atlantic States, they come up hither to test the healing virtue of a climate so renowned. How pleasant to understand that more than fifty per cent. of your consumptive visitors find permanent relief, and that about three-tenths of them recover so as to be able to return to their homes.

*The Air.*—This *air*, so cool, so pure, so dry, so delicious, so exhilarating, and, withal, so equable, is the luxury of medicine. Walking, rowing, skating, riding, driving in such an atmosphere—bright, fresh, crisp, tonic, sparkling—especially during the wintry half of the year,

“ We quaff the air like a fine, cool wine.” ]

It is the winter months which offer the best sanitary conditions, their climate being neither damp nor variable : invariable, since mercury never ‡ rises above the freezing point ; free from dampness, since the uniform presence of cold freezes all moisture out of the air. Yet, in addition to its dryness—so still is the atmosphere,§ stillness alone being equivalent to thirty degrees of temperature ||—so still is it when mercury is running lowest, that the cold is rather lovely than cruel.

*The Temperature.*—Nor is the record of the thermometer so outlandish as many imagine. The mean temperature for

\* Prof. Atkins informs me that in Ohio the miasmatic influence is so energetic and pervasive that cattle are seldom slaughtered whose livers are not diseased. Another gentleman who was many years a resident of the same State, informs me that it was difficult to obtain a sound liver for culinary purposes.

† For example—the disease called “ heaves ” is scarcely known here.

‡ Almost never.

§ The peculiar brightness of the sun likewise is thought to soften the effect of cold.

|| Dr. Kane.

the year (44° 6') coincides with that of Michigan and New Hampshire: in winter (16° 1'), with that of Montreal, and that of Hanover, N. H.; in autumn (45° 9'), with that of Montreal and that of Malone, N. Y.; in summer\* (70° 6'), with that of Oberlin and Philadelphia; in spring (45° 6'), with that of Detroit, Newport, R. I., Edinburgh, Scotland, and Bremen, Germany. If in January or February you get an occasional "snap" of 20° below zero, or more rarely of 30°, or 40°,|| or, once a century, 55°,† it is what any community in the world would welcome as a precious curiosity. Of course you do not want eccentricities of nature for a regular diet. You do not want a whole season made up of Arctic temperatures, any more than you would want a whole state made up of meteoric stones or of Mammoth Caves. No doubt the tonic coolness of your climate should be joyfully welcomed, while even its rousing cold might be accepted without murmuring or regret.

BEAUTY OF SCENERY.—It pleased God, in forming Minisota, to make exquisite provision for æsthetic culture and the gratification of taste. No other country peculiarly suited to human residence and ordinary business, is so charming with landscape pictures. Hundreds of views of Minisota scenery have already been exhibited by the artists. † Especially admired by men of taste are those vast breadths of the State § which have a park-like character, blending in a single limited survey, woods, prairies, lakes and streams.

*The General Contour.*—The general surface of the country, with broad, ocean-like undulations and billowy swells, is quite captivating to a lover of the sea. The terraced bluffs of the prairie, with the semblance of forts, add bolder features to the face of the landscape, while the castellated bluffs of the Missis-

\* Summers are warm, with breezy nights, during which most of the rains fall. There is commonly a breeze during the day also.

|| I have heard it remarked that when mercury has fallen to —20 degrees, a further decline of ten or twenty degrees adds scarcely anything to the severity of the weather.

† On the authority of Prof. Brydges; winter of 1867-8.

‡ "It is reported that \$15,000 worth of Minnesota views were sold in St. Paul during 1860."—Report of Chamber of Commerce.

§ Culminating in the Otter-tail country.

sippi,\* by their picturesque resemblance to ruined structures, recall at once the tourist's delight and the artist's rapture—the castled heights of the Rhine.

*The Groves.*—But the billowy sweeps and bluff swells of surface are scarcely more pictorial than the ubiquitous woodlands†. Innumerable groves and belts of timber, crowning the undulations of the uplands or shadowing the margins of the streams, break up the monotony of the prairie into forms of infinite variety and beauty. A third of the State is timber (three times the proportion of Iowa ‡), and there is scarcely a breadth of ten miles without it.§

*The Waters.*—Doubtless, however, the crown-jewels of Minisota are her waters. A remarkable prevalence of waters is beautifully hinted by the Indian names|| which distinguish various objects and localities. Note, for example the compounds of the Dakota word *mini*, signifying *water*. There is the name of a river, Mini-sota,¶ *sky-tinted-water*; there are the names of falls—Mini-owa,\*\* *all-water*, Mini-ha-ha,†† *cascade-water*, Mini-inopa,‡‡ *second-water*, (implying another related fall); there are the names of lakes—Mini-tan-ka,§§ *big-water*, Mini-wa-kan,||| *spirit-haunted-water*, Mini-wa-shte, *good-water*; there are names of towns—Mini-ska, *white*-(i. e. *clear*-)

\* Of lower-magnesian limestone.

† With almost every variety of deciduous trees,—oak, ash, lime, walnut and maple being the most abundant.—Besides the great forest, and detached groves, and the wooded-river, and lake-borders, there is the scattered growth of stunted trees, called "oak-openings," which usually skirt the prairies.

‡ 1-10 to 1-8.

§ Gen. Bishop, U. S. Surveyor.

|| For curious knowledge and clever conjecture in reference to these names, I am indebted to the courtesy of Pres. Folwell, the painstaking of Prof. Twining, and the erudition of Rev. G. H. Pond.

¶ *Sota* is sometimes used by the Dakotas in designating blue eyes, and they would use it to describe the sky after it had been cleared of clouds. The normal, unmodified color of the waters of the Minisota river, *Wa-tpa-mi-ni-so-ta*, pictures the meaning of the word.

\*\* A name of St. Anthony Falls—signifying, perhaps, that the water of all rivers, and of the world, pours over there. The common name was *Ha-ha*, water-fall, (or rapids,) and the Mississippi was called *Ha-ha-wa-tpa*, water-fall-river. [The Chippewa name for the falls is *Kaboh-Bikah*, broken-rocks.]

†† *I-ha-ha*, water-fall or rapids.

‡‡ There is a low fall of perhaps a couple of yards, and a little way below a *second* fall, which is perhaps ten times as high as the first.

§§ The real Indian name was *Mde-ya-tan-ka*, lake-large.

||| Mysterious or supernatural-water.

*water*, Mini-trista,\* *sad-water*, Mini-ola,† *pretty little water*, Mini-apolis,‡ *water-city*; and there is the name of the State, Mini-sota,§ derived from the largest river which is specially its own.

Review the portraiture of our text—"a land of brooks, and fountains, and depths." "Ride where you will over this vast territory," said Carleton, "and you are always in sight of a river, a creek, or a lake of purest water."|| Minisota is the artesian well of the continent. The underlying strata of rocks dip at such angles as to bring to the surface those water-veins which in other localities are reached only by deep boring. The springs thus occasioned are most bountiful; they are indeed gushing fountains, supplying lakes innumerable, and filling the upper channels of the Mississippi, the St. Lawrence, and the Red River of the North. Fair brooks and rivers—winding so gracefully, flowing in melody, flashing with silver,—“now quiet and smooth and glassy, then rippled by a temporary rapid, or—a terrace of rock abruptly crossing—broken up into romantic cascades.” Visit

—“The land of the Dakotas,  
Where the falls of Minnehaha  
Flash and gleam among the oak-trees,  
Laugh and leap into the valley.”

A hundred miles southwest, behold gleaming and glancing through the branches, a twin to Mini-ha-ha—the beautiful

POSTSCRIPT.—Some will be slow to thank Dakota scholarship for expunging the poet's "laughing-water" from "Minnehaha," and the artist's "singing-waters-where-the-elks-play" from "Minne-inne-opa."

\* Perhaps a hybrid, containing the French *triste*, sad.

† A fanciful diminutive.

‡ A hybrid from Dakota and Greek.

§ Why not spell the name of the State "*Minisota*?" The Rev. Mr. Pond so writes it in addressing a letter to me. That spelling is shorter and easier than the wrong one and it has the sovereign merit of being correct.

|| "The best-watered State in the Union." Prof. Maury, late of the Observatory at Washington.

¶ The little river, seven or eight yards wide, (June 2nd) plunges forty-five feet into a deep ravine, and runs quietly away 'as if stunned by the fall from the prairies above.' The water pours over a semi-circular shelf of rock, and underneath this the visitor passes behind the fall to the opposite side.

Mini-inopa. Compare also the newly-discovered, suddenly-famous Water-leap, some twelve miles south-west of this place.\*

*The Lakes.*—But her lakes are the glory of Minisota. Prof. Maury has observed: "There is in this territory a greater number of these lovely sheets of laughing water than in all the country besides."† They are in the valleys, in the forests, on the plains and on the heights. Schoolcraft estimated their number at ten thousand, and McClung, our latest authority, indorses the estimate. The most numerous class is from one to three miles in diameter.‡ Bordered with grassy slopes, or rimmed with rocks, or skirted with oak-groves—edged with beaches of white sand pebbly with agate, jasper and cornelian—perfumed with starry lilies, and populous with lordly fish, and alive with swan-like water-fowl; these bright breadths and clear depths of spring-water lend a thousand charms to make this goodly land a lovely place of resort or of residence. They are "the sweet eyes of earth." As the eyes are the finest and loveliest feature of the face, so are her lakes the loveliest feature of Minisota.

*The Wild Animals.*—Time would fail me to mention the untamed living creatures whose appearance is so beautiful to the eye of taste and so exhilarating to the nerves of the sportsman. It makes one's blood tingle merely to dream of such things as elk, deer, antelope, wolf and bear; § such things as trout, pike, pickerel, bass and white-fish; such things as wild-geese, mallards, prairie-chickens, swans, pelicans, hermit thrushes, blue-herons and golden-eagles.

*The Skies.*—And this imperial land, so wealthily endowed, so charmingly embellished, is canopied with an unmatched

\* The Dalles of the St. Croix have some special fame.

† One-sixth of the Big Woods is covered with lakes, "some of them eight miles long, and deep enough to float a frigate."

‡ Vary from fifty yards to thirty miles in diameter. Every variety of size, outline and situation. Generally have rocky or pebbly bottoms.

§ The buffalo is no longer east of Red River, except as an occasional visitor. Otter, mink, beaver and muskrat are the principal aquatic animals.

brilliance of blue sky, or with the golden haze of Indian-summer, or with sable storm-clouds displaying the finest splendors of electricity.

*Carleton's Eulogium.*—From the wild country north of Otter-tail Lake, an eminent traveler lately wrote: "No where in the wide world, not even in England, the most finished of all lands; not in *la belle France*, or sunny Italy, or in the valley of the Ganges or the Yangtze, or on the Sierra Nevada, have I beheld any thing approaching this region in natural beauty."

So much has GOD done for this privileged state, creating a land of brooks, and fountains, and depths; a land of wheat, and vines, and honey; \* in which there is lack of nothing.

THANKSGIVING.—Minisotians! do ye walk in the Garden of God, receive the title to a share in it, eat freely of its trees of life, and knowledge, and wealth, and pleasure—*all* THIS without thanksgiving? Nay, nay, let us, rather—pausing a moment—unite in a psalm of thanks to the Maker and Giver of this Eden-like land:—the 100th Psalm.

#### MAN'S DOING.

##### *AFTER THE WORK OF GOD IS THE WORK OF MAN.*

POPULATING.—It is man's first duty to populate with civilized beings the fair domain which God opens to him.

*Aborigines.*—Not long ago, Indian war-paths intersected these unfurrowed prairies in all directions. These groves, not yet familiar with the pioneer's ax, were familiar with council fires, war-songs and war-dances. The fashions then prevailing were very simple, requiring only moccasins, blanket, skunk-skin cap and painted eagles' feathers. Military equipments were equally simple—a war-club, a bow, a quiver full of arrows, and perhaps a shield. In the stead of lady and gentleman walking politely, you might have seen a squaw

\* 34,000 pounds of honey were produced so early as 1859.

staggering under a huge bundle of household goods and paposes, and her hunter-warrior, with no other burden than his weapons, complacently strutting along a little way in advance. They who dressed, and armed, and conducted thus, were just the cousins of the deer and the buffalo.

So late as 1845, only a quarter of a century ago, Minisota was the home of the Chippewas \* and the Sioux, † (with a few Winnebagoes ‡), the only representatives of civilization being the half-civilized trapper, the unbaptized trader—whose hand weighed a pound and his foot five pounds, § the unwashed lumberman of the St. Croix, || and a few missionaries of religion.

*Immigration.*—Little was heard or known of Minisota until 1849, when, by act of Congress, it was organized as a Territory. It had acquired a population of 4,000, and during the year there were eighty-five steamboat-arrivals at St. Paul. ¶ Whittier had a glimpse of such scenes when he wrote:

"Behind the red squaw's birch canoe  
The steamer smokes and raves,  
And city lots are staked for sale  
Above old Indian graves.

"I hear the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be—  
The first low wash of waves, where soon  
Shall roll a human sea."

\* Called otherwise Ojibwas—more intelligent and chivalric than the Sioux or the Winnebagoes. We have fuller acquaintance with the dialects, mythology, legends and customs of this nation than of any other in the country.

† Called otherwise Dakotas, which they prefer. The other name was given by the French. It was the Sioux who were chiefly concerned in the massacre of 1862, under Little Crow. Thirty-eight were hanged at one time; and all the other Sioux who were implicated, and those who were not, (except a few scattered families) and also the hitherto peaceful Winnebagoes, were removed to reservations on the Missouri river. The Dakota nation is one of the largest, if not the very largest, on the continent.

‡ The Indians who formerly occupied Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa were removed to Minisota, (which then included Dakota). Of Sioux there are about 30,000, of Chippewas, 6,000, and of Winnebagoes, there were in '56, about 2,000. The only Indians remaining in the State are a few bands of Chippewas, (6,000).

§ In buying and selling furs, etc., his hand placed in the scale was allowed to weigh one pound, his foot five pounds!

|| Lumbering commenced in 1837.

¶ In 1823 the first steamboat arrived at Mendota. Arrivals at St. Paul in 1844, 41; '45, 48; '49, 85; '55, 563; '58, 1068; '68, 835.



Yea, verily! In twenty years that first low wash of waves has been augmented a hundred and thirteen fold, and a somewhat sea-like appearance is already presented by 460,000 inhabitants.\* In 1858 † the Territory became a State. While the red men have dwindled to about 6,000, in 1869 the wave of immigration added to the dominant races nearly a hundred thousand. ‡ “ Towns and villages are springing up as if by magic in every county.” § During the ten years of her greatest progress || Minisota has grown three-and-a-half times as fast as the most rapidly growing State in the Union in the ten years of its most rapid growth.

*Nationalities.*—One might notice, in passing, how the population of Minisota is distributed in reference to nationality. About 55 per cent. are of American origin, 19 per cent. German, 14 per cent. Scandinavian, 9½ per cent. Irish, others 2½ per cent. ¶ Every State in the Union is represented, and as many as sixteen different languages are spoken.

Thus, with faithfulness are men discharging the duty of populating this goodly land.

*DEVELOPING RESOURCES.*—A second duty closely follows—that of developing the resources with which God has enriched the country. This duty, also, has been promptly undertaken. The owners of land number 73,000; \*\* the dwelling-houses, 70,000; the improved farms, 46,000. In 1869, 1,700,000 acres were cultivated; †† 1,000,000 acres (62 per cent.) were sown with wheat. And “ Every day adds thousands of acres to those already under cultivation.” ††† Twenty-five million dollars

\* 144,000 are of school-age, from five to twenty-one years; annual increase, 15,000.

† Population, 152,000, and in 1860, 172,000.

‡ McClung.

§ Carleton.

|| 1850-1860.

¶ The distribution according to an earlier estimate was as follows: American origin 45 per cent., German (18), Scandinavian (13½), Irish (13½); others 10 per cent.

\*\* Acres owned 11,000,000. Average to each owner, 150.

†† Acres cultivated by each owner, 37; per cent of the acres owned which are cultivated, 16; first furrow in 1822, near Fort Snelling; first on a *farm*, in Afton, by Haskell.

††† Millions on millions of the choicest acres are still open to homestead-claim and to pre-emption.

worth of agricultural products were raised last year, and \$11,000,000 worth of manufactures produced,\* while commerce is employing 750 miles of railroad, and from two to three hundred steamers and barges. †

*PLANTING INSTITUTIONS.*—There follows another duty which is nobler, more important and more difficult—that of planting and fostering a variety of institutions which are essential to a commonwealth.

*Governmental.*—Such is civil government—the legislative, judicial and executive apparatus which is designed to protect people’s rights to life, liberty, property and exemption from annoyance, as well as in general to cherish and promote their welfare. Doubtless everything attending the administration of public affairs in such a beautiful State, should be somewhat transcendental. But though the Creator has just pronounced a land “ very good,” look out lest “ an enemy” be found “ sowing tares.” It was becoming to lead against the slavery-rebels 24,000 troops, one-seventh of the entire population; and no doubt that other public deeds have been worthily done. But are there not political doings which bespatter and besmirch the fair face of this land, and cause her to blush to her very feet? Witness the selfish and corrupt struggles for preferment—the log-rolling, the bribery, the *slander*, the LYING!—villainy so cool, so dark, so terrible that it would be applauded in the realm of devils. Yes, “ there is something rotten in Denmark;” let it be regenerated! Every man of us become a reformer—first finding himself right, then using his wisest effort to reconstruct evil custom.

*Religious.*—Other institutions of the highest rank are churches and schools.—Churches have been very generally established: the urgent need is not that they be multiplied, but that they become purer, warmer, stronger, more efficient

\* Minneapolis has fourteen saw-mills, nine flouring-mills, four iron-works and two woolen-mills.

† Uncertain. Sixty-six steamers and 171 barges were licensed at the port of St. Paul in 1870.

far more aggressive. The Baptists have 143 churches, the Lutherans (about) 135, the Methodists 114, the Presbyterians 99, the Congregationalists 68, the Episcopalians 43: all together, 602 churches,\* with 554 ministers † and 42,000 members. Add to these 602 churches 601 Sunday-schools, ‡ and they ought to give complexion to the sentiment, the character and the customs of the State.

*Educational.*—In respect to providing public-schools, perhaps the measure of duty has been more completely filled than in respect to any other institution. It is alleged, and might probably be maintained, that Minisota has made more liberal provision for common-schools than any other State in the Union. One-eighteenth of the entire breadth of her soil has been consecrated to this purpose. That is one of the most splendid facts in all history. She has already 1,900 school houses.§ In 1868, 1,000 were of frame, 48 of stone, 37 of brick and 681 of log. She has three colossal seminaries for the training of teachers, of whom she is now employing 3,700, to educate her hundred thousand pupils.|| Besides all these, there are many academies, four or five colleges ¶ and the State University. Truly, by the estimate she sets upon schools and churches, this young State is justifying the title some authors have given her—"The New England of the West."

*Journalistic.*—Another of the institutions required by this virgin State, is the periodical-press. About seventy-five publications, daily, weekly and monthly, have already been insti-

\* The Romanists have 105 churches and 58 priests. The Universalists have 15 churches and 11 ministers.

† Baptist 99, Lutheran (German and Scandinavian) about 91, Methodist 175, Presbyterian 87, Congregational 60, Episcopal 42.

‡ Reported at the last State Sunday-School Convention, with 33,000 scholars. A pamphlet prepared by Col. Hewitt, counts 766 Sunday-Schools, with 44,000 scholars, probably including Romanists, etc.

§ Pioneers do not long remain in the case in which Carleton (July '69) found that handful (four families) at Detroit Lake (the source of Red River)—store, school and church being forty miles away.

|| 102,000.

¶ The institution at Northfield, which should be re-christened "*Plymouth College*," is exhibiting prospects full of promise. President Strong, Professor Goodhue, Professor Atkins and Preceptress Dow constitute the Faculty.

tuted. Some are of excellent tone, and are tolerably fulfilling their mission. Others are of an adulterous sort, doing about as much to stultify as to enlighten, to degrade as to elevate. Man is commissioned by the Creator of this rare land, to cover it with a live, intelligent, upright, patriotic, Christian-toned periodical-literature; and as yet the trust has been executed more faultily than there was need of.

*Erudite.*—Then come learned societies—for the cultivation of history, or literature, or science, or the fine-arts, or the various forms of professional learning. A State Historical Society, some beginning of library-associations, and several various professional bodies, have already appeared; but most of such things are to be born of the Future.

*Recreative.*—Public entertainments—pointing to diversion, sociality and refinement, are among the institutions required by the common weal. Such are lectures, concerts, exhibitions, excursions and celebrations. Not a little has been done toward supplying this need; yet much that has been done would bear rectifying, and much that is undone can not wholesomely remain so.\*

*Domestic.*—But the best institutions, those for which all others subsist, are the dear, sweet HOMES—full of comfort, of purity, of affection, of refinement, of loyalty to Heaven. These are the bright consummate flowers of a Christian civilization. And, thank God, Minisota is beginning to blossom with them.

*Charitable.*—Homes also for the unfortunate, she has planted—asylums for the deaf, the blind, the orphan, the vicious. May the Merciful give them all His benediction!

**ESTABLISHING CUSTOMS.**—Along with the planting and fostering of wholesome institutions, there devolves upon man the duty of introducing useful and ennobling customs.

\*And in God's plan for the State, no doubt there is wide and inviting room for polite society—involving such a system of genial, elegant, culturing intercourse as calls into play the finer and gentler qualities of human nature. This, however, is a tardy plant. First potatoes; finally peaches. After the economic arts, the fine arts.

*Giving God His Due.*—There is the custom of giving God His due—of duly venerating His NAME, His DAY, His HOUSE, His LAW! How beautifully would this custom fit your beautiful, God-given land! Man has fulfilled this article of his commission, hitherto, very imperfectly. Nay, the worldling, the trifler, the infidel, has sought to undo the best that has been done.

*Giving one's Neighbor his Due.*—There is the custom of giving what is due unto one's neighbor:—for example, the dealing fairly with him, according to the Golden Rule; is this custom fully established? It certainly would not tarnish this lovely land.

And the showing of considerate and friendly attention to all among whom one's lot is cast—an unclannish, un squeamish behavior toward those whose condition or manner of life is different from one's own. The tendency toward caste and clique does not deserve cultivating. This article applies to *the separation of village from country*. May God forbid it! Have you ever considered, Christian people, that while about 100,000 of your fellow-citizens are in the cities and villages of the Commonwealth, about 360,000 are in the country?

Add to this the custom of seeking directly the welfare of one's neighbor—endeavoring, pre-eminently, to promote his loyalty to the Creator of his handsome and fertile wheat-lands. the great King of the Kingdom to Come. Choicely would such a custom decorate this bright, virgin realm, even as pearls grace the radiance of a bride.

*Giving One's Self his Due.*—There is, finally, the custom of giving what is due unto one's family and one's self. An admirable custom, certainly; but they fail to honor it who are prosecuting the ruin of themselves or their families.

Intemperance is a case in point. Last year, the pure breath of Minisota was sullied, her brain clouded, her conscience blunted, her purse shrunken, by the smoke of 25,000,000 cigars. Red Wing, in the adjoining county, has 25 saloons and 6

breweries. St. Paul has 160 saloons, and last year \$800,000 was spent in them,—while an equal amount was spent for ruinous stuff outside of them: \$1,600,000! Show me a sixteenth-hundredth of it that promoted anybody's real welfare. or a sixteenth-hundredth of it that did not promote somebody's irreparable damage! And yet we read in a stately publication that the town of Carver wants a brewery and distillery. Alas! alas! But now that man has begotten so accursed a custom, may the grace and power of the Almighty reinforce his efforts to regenerate it!

Happy the State when every citizen shall give Self his due—the Samaritan, his—Cæsar, his—God, His.

#### LAST WORD.

Kind Hearers, I must not detain you.

What great centres of civilization your State may be holding in latency—who can tell? The richest and rarest capacities for greatness, she naturally possesses. Then, historically, one looks in vain for a braver population or more auspicious institutions. Should a Southron object, however, your proximity to the frigid zone, he blunders; for Minisota is, literally, in the very heart of the temperate zone. Why, north of your latitude, in the old world, is the dominant half, and more than half, of Europe. Vienna, Berlin and St. Petersburg with their half-millions, Paris the Splendid, and London the Opulent, with their million-and-a-half and three millions,—these all, with their masts, and smoke-stacks, and monuments, and palaces, and spires, and domes, are hundreds of miles nearer the Arctic ice than is Northfield or St. Paul. Are you laying the foundations of imperial cities? not unlikely. Indeed, a great statesman\* has predicted that the future capital of the United States of America, the ultimate seat of government on this boundless continent, will

\* Hon. Wm. H. Seward.

be located upon these conspicuous, central highlands.\* Then may there be found a Plymouth Rock for its corner-stone, and may you, Minisotians, prove yourselves worthy to stand in the relation of Pilgrim Fathers to the Republic of the Future!

But whether capitoline pre-eminence be written in the book of your destiny or not, man's best work should be associated with God's best. The world's parlor-land should contain the world's parlor-utilities and decorations. The finest of territories deserves, demands the finest of peoples, of customs, of institutions. Odiously dissatisfying is the contrast portrayed in Bishop Heber's couplet:

"Where every prospect pleases,  
And only man is vile."

God has made Minisota very beautiful: shall man dress her meanly, raggedly, dirtily? As God's doing has made her glorious, man's doing must never clothe her with shame. The ideal land shall smile with ideal communities, and customs, and institutions. Aye, verily—as the doing of God for Minisota is so admirable that all peoples beholding, admire her, let the doing of man be so admirable that all peoples beholding, shall be eager not only to emulate her, but to copy her as a consummate model. The "*North Star State!*" Aye! aye! As the mariner turns his wishful eye to the North Star of the heavens, and thereby directs his course unerringly across the pathless sea, so may other communities, other states, other republics—amidst the uncertainties and embarrassments of their pathless career—turn expectant eyes upward to the NORTH STAR STATE, and find guidance, and inspiration, and lofty cheer!

\* Highest land between the Gulf of Mexico and Hudson's Bay. Average elevation of the State, over 1,000 feet. Summit of the country, near Itasca Lake, 1,680 feet.

## A D D E N D A

### *Historical.*

The first Thanksgiving-day appointed by the territorial government was Dec. 26th, 1850.

The Min. Historical Society was organized by Act of Legislature in 1849.

The State Agricultural Society dates from 1854.

The first citizen-school—as distinguished from those for soldiers and Indians—was opened in 1847, at St. Paul.

The town-site of St. Paul was "laid out" in 1847.

Fort Snelling, the oldest in the State, was erected in 1819.

In 1851, there were seventy-five arrivals of steamboats *from Galena*, thirty-five from St. Louis, three from Minisota River, and six from other points.

In 1851, Bond and others travelled from Sauk Rapids to Pembina—370 miles—without seeing a human being. Time, twenty-two days.

The Chippewa Indians migrated from the East in the sixteenth or seventeenth century—first settled at the Falls of St. Mary—gradually pressed westward—and eventually compelled the Dakota nation to abandon its ancient seat around the head-waters of the Mississippi.

In respect to fruit-culture, Col. Robertson, Prof. of Agriculture and Horticulture in the State University, remarks: "Wherever wild fruit of any species grows, an improved fruit of the same or cognate species may be successfully cultivated. The indigenous flora of Minisota, embraces apples, cherries, plums, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries. We may therefore successfully and profitably cultivate the improved kinds of all these varieties."

*Latest.*—The History of Minisota requires to be re-written as often as once in six months. The St. Paul Press of January 1, 1871, publishes the following facts:

1,800,000 acres were tilled in 1870, and 18,500,000 bushels of wheat were raised.

330 miles of railroad were constructed within the State during the year, making 1,087 miles of completed road. Seven railroads already centre at St. Paul, another will be completed next summer, and six others are projected. The Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad was completed in 1867. The first track laid in the State was between St. Paul and St. Anthony, in 1862, and another ten miles was laid the same season, from Winona westward.