

tion. Meantime Wisconsin and Iowa had increased to 305,391, and 192,214. Dakota appeared in the census of 1860 with 4,837, its elder sisters showing rapid gains during the previous decade; and finally, in 1870, Montana was added to the list, all of which, taken together with Manitoba, expresses geographically the Golden North-West of our book.

This region according to the census of 1870, had a population of 2,723,172 souls, and to this number a vast multitude has been added during the eight years which have passed since the record was made. Since that time the Black Hills country has been opened to civilization, the Northern Pacific has stretched its iron arm to Bismarck in Dakota, the Yellowstone country has been entered, and the generous soil of Wisconsin's, Minnesota's and Iowa's prairies has been developed through natural increase and immigration. So at this day the figures given in the census of 1870 might be safely doubled, and then in all probability lie within the truth as to the present actual population. In 1850 the estimated value of the real and personal property in the region (two states) was \$65,771,233; in 1860 it had increased to \$573,304,346 (three states), and in 1870, it had rolled up to the grand sum of \$1,669,645,943. What it must aggregate now we do not pretend to calculate, but the reader will conclude for himself that if expressed in figures it would appear startling in its proportions.

The acreage, improved, in 1870, in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota and Montana, was 17,745,231, while of unimproved there were 16,437,624 acres, of which 7,322,337 was woodland. The cash value of farms was \$793,738,405, of farming implements and machinery, \$41,758,116, and the value of farm, orchard, and market garden products, with improvements, for the year was \$230,564,917.

As the short period which has elapsed since the above statistics were collected, is really a considerable period in the development of a region that had hitherto made such rapid strides, and which has since increased the rapidity of its growth from year to year, in almost geometrical progression, we have selected the information given in the latest census, as proper to the preface of this book, forming as it will a standard of comparison which will prove of value to the reader, and we proceed to specialize the history, development, and present conditions of the various localities comprised in the Golden North-West.

While fully intending to give this work a thoroughly practical value it does not detract from that object, to attempt the portrayal of the grand and beautiful manifestations of Nature which are to be found in every part of this wonder-land. We say attempt, because the pencil of the greatest artist is weak, when the divine themes of the Creator's handiwork are sought to be transferred to the pages of an unpretentious volume.

Taking it all in all, whatever of legend, of statistics, history and description, the publishers have been able to obtain concerning the great, the Golden North-West, they lay before the public confident that their labor will not be unappreciated.