

transmit her produce to New Orleans, and from thence to Europe ; or she can send her productions by the Lakes and the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic, or else by the grand system of railroads that pursue their arterial course from the east. But her sister States will consume her productions for years to come.

Under the Homestead Law, passed by Congress in 1862, Minnesota offers to free settlement a much larger area of public lands, and better adapted to successful agriculture in soil, climate, and situation relatively to the great avenues of inland commerce, than any other Western State.

Minnesota contains nearly 54,000,000 acres of land. Of this, the whole area appropriated by settlement or purchase is only about 7,000,000 acres, and some 10,000,000 acres have been granted for schools, railroads, &c., leaving nearly 37,000,000 acres—an area little less than that of all New England—*still open to free settlement* under the operation of the Homestead Law.

Three quarters of this surface consists of rolling prairie, interspersed with frequent groves, oak openings, and belts of hard-wood timber, watered by numberless lakes and streams, and covered with a warm, dark soil, of great fertility. The rest, embracing the elevated district north of Lake Superior and west to the sources of the Mississippi, is chiefly valuable for the rich mineral ranges on the shores of the former, and for the *pine forests* which clothe the head waters of the latter, affording *inexhaustible supplies of lumber*.

The climate is beautiful, and one of the most healthful and productive on the continent. Though the winter is cold—its mean temperature being that of New Hampshire—its severity is very much mitigated by the *extreme dryness of air*, the whole average fall of moisture being but one-sixth that of New England.

The summers, on the other hand, are very warm, *their mean temperature being that of Southern Pennsylvania*, and the rains at this season are abundant and never failing, though the air continues comparatively dry. Professor Maury pronounces it the best watered of all the Western States. It is alike exempt from the severe droughts of Kansas, and the frosts and diseases incident to moister atmospheres and heavier and less thoroughly drained soils.

The following facts are collated from the official statistics of Minnesota:—

Rapid as has been the growth of the new Western States, Minnesota has surpassed them all in the rapidity of its progress. Its POPULATION in 1850 was 5,330 ; in 1860, 172,022. Its AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT has been even more remarkable.

The number of acres of plowed land in 1850 was 1,900 ; in 1854, 15,000 ; in 1860, 433,267—having increased nearly thirty-fold in six years.

The number of bushels of wheat produced in 1850 was 1,401 ; in 1854, 7,000 ; in 1860, 5,001,432 bushels, being nearly thirty