

and extraordinary growth, arising from the rich though limited country about it. Apply these radial lines to Mackinaw, and we find that they naturally include all of Michigan, a large part of Wisconsin, and a large part of Canada West; *but in reference to water navigation, no interior site in America is equal to that of Mackinaw. Here concentrate the navigation of eighty thousand square miles of water surface, which has no other center but that of the Straits of Mackinaw.* Two facts are observed: That a commercial point which concentrates the commerce of Lakes Superior and Michigan *must* lie within the circle of their coasts; *but there is no such point but Mackinaw.* The other is, that the point of commerce which offers the shortest distance, and therefore the cheapest, to the great markets of the Atlantic, will be preferred. Mackinaw is five hundred miles nearer to Buffalo than is Fond du Lac, and three hundred miles nearer than Chicago. So it is the same distance nearer to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, or the city of New York. It is on the south side only, through the peninsula of Michigan, and toward the States of Indiana and Ohio, that the position of Mackinaw seems deficient in communications. But we no sooner see this than we see also two great lines of railroad progressing from the south through the peninsula, toward Mackinaw. The one passes on the west side from Fort Wayne (Indiana), through Grand Rapids and Traverse Bay. The other through Lansing and Amboy; both terminating on the north at Mackinaw, and both by connection with Indiana and Ohio roads at Cincinnati on the south, whence they will soon be carried to the orange-growing shores of Florida. Thus may some future traveler be borne in a few hours from the soft air of the Southern Atlantic to the keen breezes of the north, and bathe his languid limbs in the clear, cold waters of Michigan.

“Thus briefly have we followed the facts presented by Mr. Strickland, till we find ourselves again standing on the site of ‘Old Mackinaw,’ no more the single, lonely spot of civilization amid red warriors and Alpine forests, but just emerging to light, amid a wonderful growth of people, of commerce, of industry,