

and more elevated portion of this plateau, which rises gradually from high-water mark on the river bank to the slopes of the enclosing hills, is located the city of Huntington—421 miles from the navigable water of the James River, and 568 feet above sea or tide level. Huntington is a new town, having been laid out in 1871; and soon it assumed something of the appearance indicated in the cut on the previous page.

The State of Virginia, the first of the British colonies in the New World, experienced, perhaps, almost more than any other of the States of the Union, the bitterness of the curse of slavery. This deadly wrong was an inheritance from the old colonial days, and was planted in her virgin soil by English hands. The perversion of the public conscience, the depravation of morals, degradation of labour, and the long train of evils that sprang therefrom, was the inevitable fruit of this bitter root. Yet there were not wanting those whose moral sense revolted from the crime of human slavery, and in spite of social obloquy and civil disabilities, washed their hands of its ensanguined stain. One such gentle heroine, who had enfranchised all her slaves and devoted her life to self-dénying toil for the education and elevation of the oppressed race, is thus commemorated by Longfellow in his fine poem, entitled "The good part that shall not be taken away:"

She dwells by great Kenhawa's side,  
In valleys green and cool;  
And all her hope and all her pride  
Are in the village school.

She reads to them at eventide  
Of one who came to save;  
To cast the captive's chains aside,  
And liberate the slave.

And oft the blessed time foretells  
When all men shall be free;  
And musical, as silver bells,  
Their falling chains shall be.

And following her beloved Lord,  
In decent poverty,  
She makes her life one sweet record  
And deed of charity.

For she was rich, and gave up all  
To break the iron bands