

"People will not for ever make worm fences, live in log cabins, and warm themselves by log-heaps built up in great wooden chimneys, which occupy nearly the whole gable-end of the house. In the open champaign country it is not possible that the planting of hedges can long be delayed. If they can be used with advantage in any country, they certainly will succeed in ours. The climate is well adapted to the English whitethorn; and we have several indigenous thorns which are admirably suited to the purpose. The conformation of the country and its fertility render it easy to plant, to cultivate, to protect, and to perpetuate the hedge; and every circumstance combines to recommend this mode of enclosure. In the great part of the prairie region, building-stone cannot be had; but in such places brick may always be substituted by those who want to build good houses. The stratum of clay which is found under our soil is well suited for brick-making, and, in such places, can be obtained by removing the light covering of loam which forms the surface. As for fuel, there is no difficulty. No part of this country has been explored in which coal does not abound; that is to say, there is no extensive district without it. It is found in the broken lands and bluff banks of all our watercourses, and though seldom met with within the area of a prairie, it abounds on the borders of all the streams which meander among these plains. That it has not been brought into use at all is a proof of what we have asserted; viz., that wood is abundant. Whenever the farmer shall discover that his forest-trees have become more valuable, and worth preserving, he will have recourse to those inexhaustible stores of fuel which nature has treasured up in the bowels of the earth."

The same authority gives a full description of the present condition of the states in this vast region; from which it is to be inferred that Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio present the greatest attractions for the agricultural settler who has strength and nerve enough to face the initiatory difficulties of these, as yet, thinly-peopled but inviting regions.

"The state of Illinois presents to the farmer a combination of advantages, in reference to its productions, which are scarcely to be met with in any other country. Situated in the same latitude with Pennsylvania and Virginia, it yields all the products which arrive at maturity in those states, while its interior position protects it from the extremities and vicissitudes of climate which are felt upon the sea-coast, where the warmth of spring is chilled by storms rushing from snow-clad mountains, and the ocean-breeze, sweeping at all seasons over the land, produces sudden changes, and often reverses, for a time, the order of the seasons. Although we are not exempt from the operation of such casualties, we believe there is no country where the just expectations of the farmer are so seldom blighted as in ours. We may plant early or late—we may carry on the business of husbandry throughout the whole year, and we find but few days at any one time in which the labourer may not be usefully employed. We have the advantage of various climates, without suffering greatly from their inclemency.

"Wheat, rye, barley, buck-wheat, oats, hemp, flax, turnips, and Irish potatoes, all of which arrive at perfection in more northern climates, succeed well here. The latter, particularly, attain a degree of size and excellence that we have never seen exceeded, and the crops yield abundantly. The produce of the potatoe crop is from twenty to twenty-fourfold. No crop pays in quantity and quality more than this, for careful cultivation. The crops raised vary from one hundred and fifty to eight hundred bushels to the acre. The latter, however, is an extraordinary crop. The turnip is raised only for the table, but produces well. With regard to wheat there is some diversity of opinion, not whether this grain will grow, but whether it is or is not produced in this country in its *greatest perfection*. We are inclined to adopt the affirmative of this proposition. It is true that our crops vary much both in quantity and quality of produce; but we are satisfied that the disparity arises from the degree of care bestowed on the culture. Our husbandry is yet in a raw state. Wheat is often sowed in new land but partially cleared, often upon corn-ground but badly prepared; often covered carelessly with the plough, without any attempt to pulverise the

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