

intelligence, perseverance, and every qualification going to make up an enlightened and prosperous community, they will compare favorably with any other class of persons that he has ever seen.

The great majority of the settlers are from the States — New York having contributed much the largest number. There are two or three settlements of Norwegians in this district, and Scotland has its representatives in a few localities, while from different parts of the district, the "sweet German accent and the rich Irish brogue" are frequently heard.

The increase of population in the District for the year 1855, has been at least five hundred per cent, which, to some, may appear incredible, but yet Mr. Smith is satisfied that the facts will fully sustain the assertion. To show the rapid increase in that portion of Minnesota, he instances the county of Olmsted. In what is now Olmsted county two years since the white man had not disturbed the peaceful denizen of the forest, but within that period civilization has taken possession, and the beautiful prairies have been converted into broad fields, yielding bountifully, thus enriching the farmer, and converting a wide solitude into a settled district, numbering nearly or quite 5000 inhabitants. The same is true not only of other localities in this district, but of the entire southern portion of the Territory.

Quite a number of mills are already in operation in different parts of the district, and many more are in process of construction; many thriving towns are springing up in the interior, and along the Minnesota Valley, among which are Stockton, St. Charles, Rochester, Mantorville, Faribault, Orinoco, Ashland, St. Peter, Traverse des Sioux, &c., &c. Schools and churches are fast furnishing the means of mental and moral culture. A charter for a Railroad has been obtained and accepted, to connect the Mississippi at Winona with the waters of the Minnesota river, and when this shall be completed, the district will have unrivalled facilities of intercommunication.

*Red Wing Land District.*—Messrs. Phelps and Graham estimate that the population of the district has more than quadrupled during the past year, 1855. From the declaratory statements filed in that office, it would seem that settlements have reached far back into the interior, and in some instances, entire townships, with occasional exceptions, have been claimed by the pre-emptor. There is yet, however, in the district, large quantities of very desirable farming