

Passing closely to the coral reefs, and again skirting the sandy beach, the journey north is pleasant and agreeable. For those who are in a hurry and who must save time there are the various all-rail routes both by the sea-board and coast lines, the inland air lines, and the roads over the mountain ranges north and west; whilst the palatial river steamers, so numerous and closely packed along the levee, bring vividly to memory the delightful journey up the Father of Waters, the great Mississippi. The trip up this river from the latitude of the sunny South to that of the frozen North is unexcelled by any in the world, whilst the enjoyment and comfort those floating palaces such as the "Great Republic," the "R. E. Lee," "Frank Pargoud," "Natchez" and others afford cannot be excelled.

Ascending the stream in the spring, the traveller follows the line of vegetation, and enjoys in succession all the products of the earth, from the golden orange, the luscious peach, mellow banana, juicy mango and dainty apricot of the South, to the hard apple and tasteless chestnut of the North. Ample time is often given to acquaint the passengers with the towns *en route*, and you remember with feelings of pleasure the quaint former capital of Louisiana (Baton Rouge), the pleasant stroll along its shady and tree-lined boulevards, the cosy City of Natchez under the Hill, the historical Vicksburg on the Bluffs—the city that was at one time thought impregnable, but whose citizens during the days of the Confederacy were called upon, like those of Paris, to endure that most terrible of sieges, the siege of famine and starvation, in addition to the scourge and terrors of war. Journeying upwards, the ruins of the fine and costly sugar houses and cotton gins are still met with at intervals on either bank of the river, and thousands of acres of valu-