

the Pacific ocean. The climate, though generally temperate, is so diverse in the several parts, as to be capable of furnishing the conveniences, indeed most of the luxuries, of all other countries. The soil, though greatly varying in so wide a range, is generally deep, strong and durable. In many parts of the country, such is the fertility, that the strength of the soil seems inexhaustible by culture, without manuring. The intelligent, patriotic statesman, surveys with pleasant and curious emotions, the natural facility of transporting native produce and foreign articles of necessity on great rivers, intersecting a vast inland country in divers directions, navigable for vessels of large burden for thousands of miles.

By the power of steam, which now propels more than one hundred large vessels on the western waters, navigation on rivers is rendered more secure and expeditious, than on the open sea, in the ordinary way. Thus has the western farmer, by the instrumentality of steam boats on navigable waters, hundreds of miles from the ocean, daily opportunities of exchanging, at his own door, the produce of his rural labors for such foreign articles as habit has made convenient or desirable. So generally is almost every section of the western country intersected by navigable rivers, running to opposite points from nearly the same sources, in a manner interlocking, or separated only by narrow portages, pouring their waters northwardly into a sheet of fresh water lakes of more than two thousand miles in extent, and eastwardly into the Atlantic ocean—that the whole territory may be aptly resembled to a cluster of islands, or rather to a spacious champaign, excavated in all parts by the formation of navigable canals, intersecting each other in every direction.