

party—of the sort who could sing almost anything if they could only remember the words—we settled that by laying in quite a collection of songs—English, Irish, Scotch, Negro Minstrel, etc.—and which did good service for the concerts in our car in the evenings. Having an hour to spare we had an opportunity of seeing something of this wonderful city, and were much struck with the solid and substantial appearance of the buildings, and the immense business done ; here we were at the head waters of the great father of rivers, the Mississippi, 2,000 miles from the sea. The station at St. Paul is a most substantial building, something quite different in design to railway stations on this continent, more like an English building.

We passed through Minneapolis with its wonderful elevators and flour mills, and went rushing on at a rate of 40 miles an hour through a splendid country with every evidence of great prosperity, now we were nearing, as Longfellow expresses it,

"In the land of the Dacotahs,  
Where the falls of Minnehaha  
Flash and gleam among the oak trees,  
Laugh and leap into the valley."

Passing St. Cloud we were reminded of the scene of the fearful Minnesota massacre years ago. Everything now, however, betokened civilization, peace and prosperity.

After crossing the Red river at Fergus Falls the streams flow northward. As evening came on one of the most glorious sights the eye could possibly witness was presented to our vision, the sun setting on the prairie in golden glory, "gleams of crimson tinging the braided snow of the clouds," sheaves of wheat in thousands upon thousands as far as the eye could reach filling in the foreground of the magnificent picture.

Later on when the train stopped at Glyndon for supper, some of us were attracted by a bright light on the horizon, having the appearance of half-a-dozen stars rolled into one, and were conjecturing what it was, when we were informed that it was the electric light at Fargo station on the Northern Pacific railway twelve miles off. Here on the prairie we found an evidence of the progress of the age in the marvellous control of the very lightning for use of man for the purpose described. Those of our party who were billeted for beds in the car retired on leaving Glyndon station, while the others had comfortable quarters in one of the palatial sleeping cars of the St. Paul, M. & M. Railway.