

The present territory was established by Act of Congress, 3rd of March, 1819; and shortly after Alexander Ramsay was appointed governor, and made St. Paul his capital, where the government was organised, and where it has since remained. The organisation of the government of the territory having been so recent, it is impossible to exhibit by statistics the resources of this new and almost untouched country. I will, therefore, give a brief sketch of its general character, and the inducements which it offers to intending settlers.

The surface of the country is generally undulating, but varies considerably in its elevation. In some parts, especially in the neighbourhood of the Mississippi and St. Peter Rivers, the ground is much broken, and their margins lined with high bluffs of various formations; while in others the rivers flow through deep channels, seemingly worn into the earth by the force of their waters. Perhaps the most striking feature in the natural aspect of the country, is the great abundance of water contained within its limits, and the peculiar facilities which its rivers and lakes afford for inland navigation and for purposes of manufacture. Every portion of the territory may be reached by inland navigation.

By the recent treaty concluded with the Sioux Indians, all that beautiful country stretching along the west side of the Mississippi River, from Iowa to St. Peter's River, has been thrown open for settlement. It's a country of great fertility, of picturesque scenery, and is probably rich in mineral treasures; it also possesses a healthy climate and abundant water-power; thus offering an inviting field for manufacturing and agricultural pursuits.

With regard to the climate of the territory, I can only say that the high latitude in which it is situated will operate upon the minds of some as a serious objection to make it a place of residence. I passed the winter of '49-50 in the country, and found the weather intensely cold, but the air dry, elastic, bracing, and healthy, much like that of Lower Canada. Early frosts, sufficient to injure vegetation, are frequent, and the raising of fruit has on that account been unsuccessful. The mean annual temperature, according to thermometrical observations made during several years at Fort Snelling, is  $45^{\circ} 38'$ . Fort Snelling is in latitude  $44^{\circ} 53'$ . Owing to the severity of the winter and backwardness of the spring, the opening of navigation in the Mississippi is generally late, which is one of the great drawbacks to the progress of the territory, as, until railroad connection is formed to the south, the inhabitants are cut off from all communication with the outer world, except by stage or sleighs, during the winter, or for five months in the year. In ordinary seasons the Mississippi may be considered navigable to St. Peter's River until the 25th November, and to re-open about the 15th of April.