

# THE AORTA OF NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCE.

BY CHAUNCEY N. DUTTON.

AN observing man once remarked that by a wise and beautiful provision of Providence the great rivers are all located conveniently for the big cities. A wise man, truly!

Transportation makes the city: in proportion as transportation is good and cheap, the city becomes great and wealthy. The city is a circumstance of topography. Until the invention of a prime mover, which shall give us power without cost, causes the æroplane to supplant the less soaringly ambitious boat and car, the cities, big and little, must be located where freight can be brought to them the cheapest:—*i.e.*, upon the water courses.

To what extent cheap transportation affects the growth of cities is well illustrated in the following tables, in which a group of six American cities on the upper great lakes is compared with a group of six American cities not sharing the benefits of the cheap lake freights, and with a group of six Canadian cities situated on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The comparison covers the population and rate of growth of the cities of the respective groups, as shown in three successive censuses.

GROUP No. 1—AMERICAN LAKE CITIES.

POPULATION	1870.	1880.	1890.
Chicago .....	298,977	503,185	1,099,850
Buffalo.....	117,714	155,134	255,664
Cleveland .....	92,829	160,146	261,353
*Pittsburg.....	86,076	156,389	238,617
Detroit.....	79,577	116,340	205,876
Milwaukee .....	71,440	115,712	204,468
Totals.....	746,613	1,206,906	2,265,828

GROUP No. 2—AMERICAN CITIES NOT BENEFITED BY THE LAKE TRANSPORTATION.

POPULATION	1870.	1880.	1890.
St. Louis.....	310,864	350,518	451,770
Cincinnati .....	216,239	255,139	296,908
New Orleans....	191,418	216,090	242,039
Louisville .....	100,753	123,758	161,129
Rochester.....	62,386	89,366	133,896
Albany.....	69,422	90,758	94,923
Totals.....	951,082	1,125,629	1,380,665

GROUP No. 3—CANADIAN CITIES ON LAKE ONTARIO AND THE ST. LAWRENCE.

POPULATION	1871.	1881.	1891.
Montreal.....	107,225	140,747	216,650
Toronto .....	56,092	86,415	181,220
Quebec .....	59,699	62,446	63,090
Hamilton .....	26,716	35,961	48,980
Kingston .....	12,407	14,091	19,264
Three Rivers....	7,570	8,670	8,334
Totals.....	269,709	348,330	537,538

INCREASE IN POPULATION.

DECADES.	1870 to 1880.		1880 to 1890.		1870 to 1890.	
	Actual.	per ct.	Actual.	per ct.	Actual.	per ct.
GROUP No. 1. 6 American Lake Cities. }	460,293	61 2/3	1,058,922	87 3/4	1,519,215	203 1/2
GROUP No. 2. 6 American Cities. }	174,547	19 4/10	255,036	22 2/3	429,583	45
	1871 to 1881.		1881 to 1891.		1871 to 1891.	
GROUP No. 3. 6 Canadian Cities. }	78,621	29	189,208	54 3/10	267,829	99 3/10

\* Pittsburg is classed here with the upper lake cities, because its manufactures and growth, especially its iron industry depend almost entirely on the cheap lake freights, without which Pittsburg would be an unprogressive town; Rochester, accessible to Lake Ontario craft, does not so depend on lake transportation for material for her industries.