

MINING TRADE.

The statistics of this trade, on the South side of Lake Superior, and in United States territory, show that the commencement of the copper mining operations was in 1845, in which year 1300lbs. of copper, of the value of \$290, were got out; and that notwithstanding the great deficiency of facilities for transportation and the necessity for land carriage, to get past the St. Mary's Falls, the value of the copper products yearly increased to \$805,000 in 1854, and the aggregate amount for that decade of years reached \$2,846,509. The year 1855 witnessed the opening of the St. Mary's Canal, and a new era in the mining trade of that region. The value of the copper shipped that year was \$1,437,000; and, in 1864, it had increased to \$6,318,550, the aggregate value for that decade bring \$31,701,000.

The iron trade of that district commenced on the opening of the St. Mary's Canal, in 1855, with a product that year of the value of \$14,470, and steadily and rapidly increased till it reached, for the year 1864, \$1,957,890; and made, for the total product of the ten years, \$6,244,920.

The mining trade of North Michigan, both in copper and iron is now being vigorously prosecuted, while the supply of ore seems inexhaustable and the production of the pure metals limited only by the facilities for their development and carriage to market.

Although the British side of the lake does not exhibit a corresponding degree of activity, there is, nevertheless, abundant evidence of a boundless and profitable field, for the employment of money and labor, when such powerful stimulants as capital, enterprise, and cheap transportation shall be brought to bear upon its now almost dormant resources.