

But we do not propose to enter into any elaborate discussion of its merits. We wish simply to set forth a few facts relative to an enterprise just now attracting some attention. Ferris, in his "States and Territories of the Great West," makes the following mention of the straits: "If one were to point out on the map of North America a site for a great central city in the lake region, it would be in the IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE STRAITS OF MICHILIMACKINAC. A city so located would have the command of the *mineral* trade, the *fisheries*, the *furs*, and the *lumber* of the entire North. It might become the *metropolis* of a great commercial empire. It would be the *Venice* of the lakes." In 1853 Mr. Edgar Conkling, then of Cincinnati, with something of the same appreciation of this point, secured a large tract of land on the south side of the straits. In 1857-58 he surveyed the city site, but the financial revulsion at that time and the war which soon followed prevented further operations until the present. During the past winter a good dock has been constructed and preparations are fast being made to build up the new city. The streets, as surveyed, are eighty feet in width, and the avenues one hundred and one hundred and fifty feet, respectively, and are to be forever unobstructed by improvements of any kind, shade trees alone excepted. The lots, with the exception of those in fractional blocks are fifty by one hundred and fifty feet. Old Mackinaw Point, where may still be seen the ruins of the old "Fort Michilimackinac," has been reserved for a park. It is now in a state of nature, but in this instance nature has done more unassisted by art than is often accomplished by both combined. A richer and more beautiful variety of evergreens can nowhere be found than here, and "when the skillful hand of the horticulturist has marked its outlines and threaded it with avenues and footpaths, pruned its trees and carpeted its surface with green, it will present the very perfection of all that constitutes a park delightful." Suitable blocks and lots for county and city buildings, school-houses, churches, and institutions of learning and charity, will be donated for their respect-