

Waters," southward, an observing tourist will find that the State, throughout its whole extent, assumes one general horizontal appearance; no mountains or hills are here to mar the beauties of the enchanting scene or disturb the harmony of its undulated surface, save a few isolated out-layers, the largest of which are the Blue, the Platte, and the Sinsiniwa Mounds. These *natural* prominences (neither of which covers more than two hundred acres), are of an irregular, pyramidical or conical form, and aid gracefully in embellishing the otherwise natural attractiveness of the plain. They served as guides for the roving aborigines—the red man and the warrior. They still serve as majestic "beacons" for civilization; and, elevated a few hundred feet above the gentle swells of the prairie, observable at distances of thirty miles or more, as they are, will ever remain as objects of admiration in all time to come. The diversified view from either of these natural observatories is indescribably grand.

After an absence of over twelve years from Wisconsin, I was amazed, during a recent visit, at the change time had wrought in its progress. Milwaukee was scarcely known other than prospectively; she is now rapidly acquiring importance as a great city, having a population of over thirty thousand, with immense commercial business and business capacity; her streets are spacious, well graded and paved, her public and business houses and private mansions are constructed upon magnificent scales, and of tasty architecture; the brick used for building are of a beautiful buff color and of fine texture, which gives to the whole city the pleasing aspect, as I fancy it, of a tall prim Quakeress, clothed in plain, buff colored garb.

Madison, the second in population in the State, now numbers upwards of eight thousand six hundred inhabitants.* The city, upon an isthmus, or, more properly, upon a peninsula, between Lakes Mendota and Monona, about three-fourths of a mile in

*The present population of Milwaukee (July 1, 1856), is not less than 35,000, and Madison fully 10,000.

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