

as the Falls of St. Anthony. The superior steamboat landing and her agricultural and other advantages, warrant for this ancient frontier trading post, at no distant day, an eminent position as a populous commercial city.

Between Prairie du Chien and the Falls of St. Anthony, the country, prior to 1839, contained few inhabitants other than semi-civilized Indians; who occupied, as villages, many of the prominent locations which now flourish as populous miniature cities; the most important of which are Lansing, in Iowa, Prairie La Crosse, Prescott and Hudson, in Wisconsin, and Winona, Red Wing, Wabasha, Stillwater, St. Paul and St. Anthony, connected with Minneapolis by a wire suspension bridge, from an island above the cataract, in Minnesota. These are all eligible points, in every view, yet, as inducements to capitalists and business adventurers (I merely throw out a suggestion), would it not tend to advantageous results, in the prosperity of these cities, were the proprietors to *reduce* the price of grounds to a grade at least as low as that of New York or Philadelphia?

To antiquarians, the most interesting feature in this region, is that of its earthwork embossments. The writer, during 1842,* devoted much labor in preparing an essay on the existence of the tumuli of Wisconsin, and was sorely perplexed, in his recent perambulations in that State, at the ruthless desecration of many of the mounds. Why should these interesting relics of antiquity be thus thoughtlessly leveled with the earth by the plough share and the hoe? Truly the patriotic agriculturalist should at least devote, in their preservation, a spark of the same veneration bestowed upon them by the uncultivated Indian. They remained undisturbed by the savage for countless years—they are now in charge of a civilized destroyer! Upon the Press of the State rests the responsibility of the protection of these labors of an ancient people—should that palladium fail in their transmission to posterity, in their pristine condition, I warn the habitant to

* Am. Jour. Science, vol. 44, p. 21.