

themselves. Pauperism and crime, the sure concomitants of large commercial communities, have made no inroads within our borders; and taking into consideration the richness of our soil, the abundance of our timber, and the great number of our water-courses, we can certainly expect to rank as one of the best counties in our flourishing State. The county is about twenty-four miles square, having an area of 576 square miles; traversed through its centre by the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad, from east to west, passing through Monroe, the county seat. The south and west parts of the county are nearly covered with a heavy growth of timber. Walnut, ash, oak, sugar tree, and linn exist in great abundance, affording great facilities for building, and the manufacture of all kinds of wooden wares. The populaton of Monroe, the principal town, is about two thousand, while that of the county, by the census of 1855, was 14,727, which has since largely increased. Decatur, Brodhead, Albany and Dayton are flourishing villages.