

Hudson and Neighborhood

By T. Dwight Hall

If the reader will take the pains to consult a map, he will observe, that between the navigable waters of the Mississippi and those of Lake Superior, which, with their connections, form the two longest lines of inland navigation in the world—there intervenes a tract of country, somewhat more than one hundred miles in length. At the nearest point to the latter, which can be reached by steamboats, such as usually navigate the Upper Mississippi, stands the city of Hudson. Nothing can be more obvious to one well acquainted with the geography of our country, than that, whenever easy and rapid means of communication shall be opened between those two points, there must of necessity, grow up at each of them, a city of great commercial importance, since the whole trade between those two great channels of inter-communication, which span a Continent and furnish a highway for a nation teeming with population, wealth and enterprise, must then inevitably pass through, and center at those points. Were they, therefore, situated in the midst of a morass, and backed by a country as waste and barren as the great Sahara, yet, whenever a quick and easy transit could be made between them, we should predict with equal certainty, their rapid growth, and speedy expansion, to the rank of commercial cities. But to Hudson at least, nature has been far more bountiful of her favors.

Place your thumb in a position, as it were, at the mouth of Willow river, and with the index finger, describe an arc, the