

earth, will you go to find its equal as an abode for civilized men? Among the cities of this valley, is Milwaukee the least? and are those elements of wealth alluded to, and which fall to her share, less bountiful than those which surround her sister cities?

Natural Advantages

But to be more minute. The city itself has superior advantages for a town, which have not been without material influence upon our prosperity. The broad deep Bay, the happy confluence of the two rivers, each with its valley running just in the right direction, and just of the right width for commercial business upon an extended scale, while at a suitable distance upon either hand, are the admirably formed high lands for residences, at whose base flow living springs, and upon whose surface wells were easily obtained of pure water, and along whose sides, cropped out here and there quarries of stone, and in whose banks, on every hand, is found the material from whence the brick, for our own use and for exportation, are made; and which have gained us a reputation almost equal to the famous brick of Holland.

The *forest* of heavy timber which surrounded Milwaukee and still does, although the woodman's axe has made wide gaps within it, has been a mine of wealth to the city. The cooper, the wagon-maker, the wharf-maker, the cabinet-maker, the ship-builder, and the builders of every kind, have drawn constantly and immensely from this source. Beech, maple, basswood, hickory, ash, elm, and oak make up the forest. Nor should we overlook the comparatively cheap fuel derived from this source, while the lowly and the poor among us, for a long time, and, I think, still do, supply themselves without cost, from the refuse of these magnificent forests.

Health

Another special cause may be named as one of the sources of our growth and prosperity—a great heavenly gift, viz.: the