

could, at the call of her country,—at the first alarm of public danger,—draw from her fields, her workshops and halls of learning, and put into the field, a larger army than the combined forces that contended at Waterloo. To day, Wisconsin as a state has a military history in which is written the deeds of valor of an hundred thousand men whose bravery on a hundred bloody fields sheds imperishable luster on the citizen-soldiery of the republic. Then, a few rude mission houses testified that the faithful disciple was doing his Master's work. To-day, there is scarcely a prairie or hillside where the church cannot be seen. Then, scarcely a school-house could be found in the state. To-day, over six thousand dot our landscapes, costing nearly five million dollars, and the cost has scarcely been felt by the builders. Nearly half a million happy school children are acquiring knowledge to fit them for the duties of citizenship. In these few years we have built up an educational system second to none in the Union.

The growth of Wisconsin, thus briefly alluded to, is simply that of our whole country. The state has grown, in this period, from a mere handful of resolute pioneers to over a million and a half of people; from a few cabins to stately cities, where the roar of commerce is never still; from a few trails through forest and prairie, to thousands of miles of highways, where the vast procession of industry, with increasing tread, gives no rest to the ground,—and four thousand miles of railway, along which the gigantic currents of trade and commerce continuously pour; from here and there a corn field planted by the hardy settler, to over five million acres of arable land, divided into thousands upon thousands of farms, enclosed and tilled with every appliance of skill. Our commerce has grown from the insignificant traffic in furs, and the product of a few lead mines, to many millions of dollars per annum. Our manufactories have grown from perhaps a dozen rude saw-mills, by the side of our streams, to nine thousand factories and mills, producing manufactured articles worth over thirty millions of dollars.

This retrospect of fifty years of life in Wisconsin, as I glance back on memory's pages, presents to my mind a most