

The committee provided a way out of the difficulty they had raised, by suggesting that congress be importuned to compensate Wisconsin, "in some measure," for the loss of the upper peninsula, as Michigan had been compensated for the loss of the strip on her southern border. The compensation which the committeemen thought Wisconsin might accept, should come in the shape of: (1) The government construction of a railroad between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi; (2) The improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, so as to make a national waterway between the great lakes and the great river; (3) The connection, by canal, of the Fox and Rock rivers; (4) The construction of harbors on the west shore of Lake Michigan, at Southport [Kenosha], Racine, Milwaukee, Sauk Harbor, Sheboygan and Manitowoc.

The report of this committee, and the address to congress by which it was accompanied, are interesting reading, in view of subsequent events. Probably no state ever adopted a more belligerent tone towards congress than did Wisconsin in these singular documents, which read more like emanations from a South Carolina legislature than the sober judgment of a community which was among the foremost, in later days, in putting down by force of arms the rebellion which was the fruit of the state-rights doctrine carried to its logical sequence. The committee, after expressing its disposition to believe that congress "would hasten to make all the atonement in its power, and that they would guaranty the construction by the general government of the improvements before mentioned, or such reasonable equivalents as might be mutually agreed upon by the general government and Wisconsin," adopts this lofty and threatening strain:

"Should we be disappointed in these reasonable expectations, we shall continue to occupy the same position that we do now, with this advantage, that we shall have shown to the world that we exhibited to the United States government a disposition in the first instance amicably to arrange the difficulties in which we are involved by their action, and we shall then have but to satisfy civilized communities that we