

went to New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada.¹ But since then, and especially since 1845, they have settled in Wisconsin and Iowa.²

Physical Features.

Of all the Northwestern states, no one excelled Wisconsin, and perhaps no state equalled it in natural advantages especially suited to a quick development. Wisconsin is bounded on the north and east by two of the largest inland lakes in the world. The western boundary is the great Mississippi. Running diagonally across the state is the valley occupied by Green Bay and the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Situated thus between the limits of the two most important waterways in the United States, Wisconsin possessed great advantages in the way of routes of travel and means of transportation, an especially important factor in the early days. The prospects for Wisconsin in that respect were sometimes greatly magnified. It was suggested by one German writer, that we should doubtless soon see Bremen steamers in Milwaukee harbor.³ By means of the canal connecting the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, a limited navigation was possible from Lake Michigan through Green Bay to the Mississippi. Before railroads were built, it was declared that Wisconsin had better means of communica-

¹ *Löher*, p. 275.

² The statistics of the Erie canal show that furniture destined for Wisconsin passed over that thoroughfare as follows: 42 tons in 1838, 742 tons in 1839, 816 tons in 1840, 1,190 tons in 1841, 1,985 tons in 1842, while for Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania it had fallen off more than one-half, and for Ohio and Illinois more than one-third. The main routes of travel to the west were by New York and New Orleans. The former, by which the travel was most extensive, it was estimated, had brought from 50,000 to 60,000 settlers to Wisconsin by 1843; while about 10,000 had come up the Mississippi into our state. It is natural then, that Wisconsin should have received a larger immigration than Iowa and the more western states at that period.—*Hunt's Merch. Mag.*, x., p. 541.

³ Alexander Ziegler's *Skizzen einer Reise durch Nordamerika und Westindien mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des deutschen Elements der Auswanderung und den landwirthschaftlichen Verhältnisse in dem neuen Staate Wisconsin* (Dresden and Leipzig, 1849), pt. i., p. 229.