

would build ten. Yet such proved to be the case, and its great system of railroads, converging upon Chicago, radiated to every part of the West and Northwest and fixed forever the course of trade and the commercial centers about which it circulated. The result of this achievement may best be told in the words of their dispossessed rivals of the South. "All the lead from the upper Mississippi now goes east by the way of Milwaukee. But the most recent and astonishing change in the course of the northwestern trade is to behold, as a friend tells us, the number of steamers that now descend the upper Mississippi, loaded to the guards with produce, as far as the mouth of the Illinois river, and then turn up that stream with their cargoes, to be shipped to New York via Chicago. The Illinois canal has not only swept the whole produce along the line of the Illinois river to the East, but it is drawing the products from the upper Mississippi through the same channel, thus depriving not only New Orleans, but St. Louis, of a rich portion of their former trade."<sup>1</sup>

Again: "New Orleans has suffered herself to sleep soundly in the arms of all the prosperity which the God of nature seemed to have showered upon her. Like Achilles of old, she conceived that a Deity had lent her armor, and, as the pet child of destiny, she must be forever invulnerable. Bewildered in her dreams of eastern magnificence and rank, as she contemplated herself at the very foot and receptacle of all the greatest and most magnificent rivers upon earth, \* \* \* with fifteen great states of the confederacy claimed to be inalienably tributary to her, \* \* \* the connecting link between the two great continents. \* \* \* This was New Orleans; but what is New Orleans now? Where are her dreams of greatness and glory? \* \* \* Whilst she slept, an enemy has sowed tares in her most prolific fields. Armed with energy, enterprise, and an indomitable spirit, that enemy, by a system of bold, vigorous and sustained efforts, has succeeded in reversing the very

<sup>1</sup> *De Bow's Review*, xii., p. 38, article on "Virginia Commercial Convention," 1852.