

Arrangements have been made and elements are at work which will, it is believed, gather into one bond at the south end of Lake Michigan all the great Railroad interests of Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and New England, and the Canadas, from thence to radiate over all the country between Milwaukee and St. Louis and Cairo."

The editor, in commenting upon this letter, says: "The writer is probably better informed than we are of the arrangements made with other Railroad companies in the South and West, by which they concede to us in the North, the main trunk of Railroad communication from the Atlantic as far west as the southerly bend of Lake Michigan; but we are of opinion that there must be a serious struggle yet with interests south of us to accomplish all this—that the northern road must be done speedily—done before a central Railroad shall be completed from the Atlantic to St. Louis; for if done *now* it becomes a basis of an extension of Railroad still westward to Oregon; if not done before the completion of a Railroad from the Atlantic to St. Louis, then St. Louis becomes the starting point of an extension of Railroad to the Pacific. The question is, shall the upper West, or shall the lower West be the great avenue of trade and commerce, not only with the heart of this great continent, but ultimately with the islands of the Pacific and with the opulent Indies." A year later we find the following vigorous editorial in the same paper: "The Northwest is lagging. The world is running away from us. Look around us. See our undeveloped resources, our fertile lands uncultivated—our rich mineral lands ineffectually scratched over on their surface—our streams idly running, which ought to propel all sorts of machinery—our villages languishing—our farmers troubled to barter off their produce at ruinous prices for goods at an enormous profit—our population, as a whole, living without the conveniences and luxuries which should always reward patient industry—why is all this? Simply for want of easy communication with the great markets of the world. Western