

Wisconsin must arouse. We have slept long enough. Something must be done, we must do it for ourselves. Chicago saw the necessity of a railroad to Galena, and she went to work at it and will build it. Western Wisconsin must be put in communication with a railroad."¹

It is not necessary to go further and point out how the lead and shot trade figured in the demand for a railroad from Milwaukee to the Mississippi. The importance of that industry was on the wane, and its peculiar value was being overshadowed by the immense development of agriculture and the growing importance of the lumber and milling interests of the State. It remains to point out the significance of the shot and lead trade in the settling of South Central Wisconsin. In examining the three maps herewith presented, showing the distribution of population in the State in 1836, in 1840, and in 1850 respectively, one is struck by the difference between them. The population in 1836, and even in 1840, lay massed in the southwest and in the east about Milwaukee, in two distinct, unconnected, inharmonious sections. The western section had its interests centered about the mines, its social and economic life affected by the peculiar relations arising from this occupation; and more important than all, it was a section in closest touch with the South—with St. Louis, to which went the lead produced and from which all supplies were obtained; with New Orleans, and the other Southern cities, more distantly but none the less vitally connected. Its newspapers were Southern in tone, so were its correspondents. The great river steamboats that plied between Galena and the Mississippi markets carried from New Orleans and St. Louis more than their sugar and coffee, their articles of foreign luxury and their everyday necessities. Economically this section was linked with the South, but socially and intellectually the tie was even closer; its people habitually turned in this direction for that sort of leadership which every large city exercises among the smaller communities with which it is in touch. Slavery took root for a while in this part of Wisconsin, brought

¹ *Wis. Herald*, June 10, 1848.