

naturally enough from the neighboring slave States, whose views on this question had a place among the common stock of popular ideas.

As opposed to this stood the eastern section of Wisconsin, with its population of native Americans from New England and New York, its Germans and its French. The interests of this section were not mining, but agricultural and commercial; and it faced, so to speak, the East, especially New York and Pennsylvania.

These two sections of our State, thus looking in opposite directions, divergent in ideas and sentiments, and mode of life, were made to coalesce by uniting their economic interests upon a common source of profit—the lead and shot trade of Southwestern Wisconsin. The western section was, as it were, compelled to find a direct route eastward for these products. The lake cities of the eastern section needed just the stimulus afforded by a new and profitable trade to develop into the rich and important centers they were afterwards to become. Thus a common subject was found for State legislation and agitation in Congress, and both sections joined hands in the work of securing improved means of transportation. More than all, the opening of roads and the regular passage of freight wagons to and from the lake cities, especially Milwaukee, served to people the vacant lands which in 1836 divided the two sections from each other. A glance at the map of 1850 will show how thoroughly that had been done. The State, which in 1833 had two separated sections of population, was to all appearances fairly desectionalized in 1850, so far as mingling of population could do it; and this was largely the result of improved means of communication and mutual economic interests.

The initiatory impulse given to the settlement of this central region of Southern Wisconsin by the early lead and shot trade was of the utmost importance. It coincided with a movement westward in New England and New York, itself connected with the completion of the Erie canal; and it enabled Wisconsin to take advantage of this great