

settlement here was due to the favorable reports which had been circulated. A letter quoted by Gonner from the *Luxemburger Wort*,<sup>1</sup> says: "The State of Wisconsin is the region which the Luxemburgers prefer for settlement. The soil is productive, the climate similar to that in the grand duchy, the necessaries of life are cheap, and employment can be obtained." Another inducement for the settlement was, that the Luxemburger almost universally preferred the forest.<sup>2</sup> In New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin they chose woodland. The reason for this preference, aside from the desire to obtain fuel and building material, is the fact that the forests have become scarce in their native land, and a piece of woodland is regarded as a treasure; it marks the difference between the small and large peasant estates.

Owing to the failure of harvests in 1854, emigration was especially large from 1854 to 1857. It is estimated that 6,000 persons left Luxemburg at that time. A few only, remained in New York and Ohio; a large number settled near Milwaukee and along Lake Michigan; some joined the original settlers in Pewaukee, and small groups located at Luxemburg, Kewaunee county, St. Joseph's Ridge, in La Crosse county, and in the mineral region near Potosi, in southwestern Wisconsin. During the next three decades, emigration from Luxemburg continued, and Wisconsin received a considerable part of it.

At present, Luxemburgers, both from the duchy and the Belgian province, are found scattered throughout the State. The largest settlement is in the neighborhood of Port Washington. It extends northward for several miles into Sheboygan county, west from Lake Michigan, into the towns of Fredonia and Saukville, Washington county; and for several miles south of Port Washington. There are about 500 Luxemburg families in this latter locality, belonging to the four Catholic congregations of Port Wash-

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<sup>1</sup> II jahrgang 1849, March 16 (Gonner, p. 97).

<sup>2</sup> Gonner, pp. 108, 109, 162.