

ment over the old wagon, as afterward the railroads proved to be over the stages.

To go to New York we had first to travel to Galena, forty miles. From there the stage would take us to Chicago. The coaches had three inside seats, calculated to hold three passengers each. The back seats were the most comfortable, as you had something to lean against—the others were seats of torture during a long journey. The stages did not stop at night, but drove right along. When morning came, the passengers, if they had been able to sleep at all, would wake up stiff, chilled through, and tired; and after an indifferent breakfast would have to endure another day and night of torture. My recollection is it took us three days and two nights to reach Chicago. After passing Elgin, we struck what was then called the Illinois bottom, where the mud was two feet deep during rainy weather, and almost impassable during spring, when the stages frequently got mired and passengers were called upon to help pry them out of the mud. Fortunately, the present being a dry season, we had the good luck to reach Chicago without any very serious annoyance.

I cannot remember the name of the hotel at which we stopped. It was a modest brick building near the lake, but I have been unable to find its location at any of my numerous subsequent visits to Chicago. The city at that time was composed mostly of wooden buildings, and large plank sidewalks made locomotion easy and possible, notwithstanding the soft soil. The streets were full of life and bustle, and the inhabitants were predicting a great future.

George Smith, a friend and compatriot of Alexander Mitchell, of Milwaukee, was at that time the principal banker. Having exchanged with him our Western currency for Eastern funds, we engaged passage on one of the large packet steamers which were making regular trips down the lakes to Buffalo. I have forgotten the name of the steamer and its gentlemanly captain; but a more delightful trip I never took. We were favored by splendid weather. When we arrived opposite Milwaukee the cap-