

**THREE LECTURES, DELIVERED
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN STATE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AT ITS
ANNUAL MEETING, AT LANSING,
JANUARY 17, 1865, PP. 1-93**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649399888

Three Lectures, Delivered Before the Michigan State Agricultural Society, at Its Annual Meeting, at Lansing, January 17, 1865, pp. 1-93 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**THREE LECTURES, DELIVERED
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN STATE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AT ITS
ANNUAL MEETING, AT LANSING,
JANUARY 17, 1865, PP. 1-93**

THREE LECTURES,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

MICHIGAN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

AT THE

Annual Meeting, at Lansing, January 17, 1865.

The Undeveloped Regions and Resources of the State of Michigan,

BY

D. BETHUNE DUFFIELD, Esq., DETROIT.

The State Agricultural Society; Its Means and Ends,

BY

A. S. WELCH,

Principal of the State Normal School.

THE SOILS AND SUBSOILS OF MICHIGAN,

BY

PROF. A. WINCHELL,

Of the State University of Michigan.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

LANSING:

KEHR & CO., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1865.

THE
UNDEVELOPED REGIONS AND RESOURCES
OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN,

With some Practical Suggestions in Reference to their Early
Occupancy and Development.

A LECTURE,

PREPARED FOR THE MICHIGAN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AND DELIVERED AT LANSING,
JANUARY 11, A. D. 1865, P.

D. BETHUNE DUFFIELD.

The object of the following address is to submit in outline sketch, an exhibition of the undeveloped regions and resources of the State of Michigan—accompanying it with such few practical suggestions, as may contribute somewhat to their early occupancy and development.

A theme so broad, and withal so attractive, exacts on the part of him who would treat it with any degree of forbearance towards his hearers, a very large sacrifice, both of material and suggestion.

However indifferent to all matters of State development we may have suffered ourselves to remain through the palmy days of the past, when "our peace flowed like a river," and all was happiness and harmony along our borders, it will be conceded, that in a time like that through which as a people we are now passing, this indifference must of necessity cease. When the wild echoes of destructive war are rolling through a nation, they not only summon her brave men to the field, but they at the same time command her wise men into council; requiring

of them a careful reconnoissance of the future, and a prompt inauguration of such policies as are suited to the exigencies of her imperiled condition.

These unhappy voices are to-day still ringing in our ears, and while as we hope, they breathe the herald notes of a victorious and regenerating peace, they yet utter their words of warning, admonishing each State to repair all her waste places, to throw open to the fruitful influences of the sun all her silent forests, to excavate from sunken vein and mountain wall, her stores of undisturbed mineral wealth, and as rapidly as possible, to concentrate upon her soil, a busy and industrious population.

The debt of the United States, from an amount, which four years ago, was scarcely more than nominal, has suddenly, under the terrible necessities of a rebellion, involving the national existence, been swelled to figures and proportions almost beyond the capacity of mortal management, and this debt can only be borne, and honorably discharged through the *increased* wealth of the several States composing the great Federal Union; for as the aggregate wealth of communities composes that of the State, so the aggregate wealth of the several States, makes up the grand total of resources for the United States. Nor is this public debt all that rests upon the citizen. The debts of the several States, all more or less increased by the exigencies of the war; the debts of the various counties; the township debts; and the yet further indebtedness of the individual citizen, must with its interest, all be added to the great national debt, before we can fully realize our financial condition and its claims upon us. Were I able in reliable statistics here to place before you, the towering pile of figures thus composing the debit side of the nation, I should certainly win a ready assent to the statement just made, that something besides *existing* wealth, must cancel these vast obligations of our day. It cannot be drawn from the fabulous resources of Wall Street, nor from the green boxes of retired millionaires. It cannot by any stroke of financial wisdom be evoked from the great reser-

voirs of European capital; nor called into existence by rubbing the modern Aladdin lamp in the form of a Bank Engraver's steel plate; but it must and can only proceed from wealth *newly created*; from that which is to-day locked fast in the mine, hid in the forest, or slumbering still in the untilled acres of our virgin soil. Immigration must be encouraged, settlements promoted by judicious public improvements, communities built up in regions now awaiting their approach; and the strong arm of man universally quickened into active and productive industry.

The giant growth of the United States sprang originally—and in a very few years as we measure the life of a great nation—from a few scattered settlements on its bleak and forbidding coasts. These settlers came not in crowded fleets, flanked by the iron clads of modern times, and sustained with all the resources of later days; but crowded in frail barks, like those which *two centuries* ago wrestled with the perilous ocean, were compelled on making land to kindle their fires, and build their huts in the presence of a savage race, who threatened them with early expulsion, or extermination.

Nevertheless, they courageously planted their feeble settlements; and these gradually approaching each other, formed first communities, then hamlets, towns, counties and colonies, and ultimately in the progress of their political development vast States, out of which in due time sprang that final triumph of an enlightened civilization, our own Federal Union.

Two important lessons are here put on record for the benefit of the nation as it still moves resistlessly forward in its wide circuit of self-expansion, and they may be thus stated, viz:—the early and full acquaintance of every new State with its own resources, and the rapid concentration of men upon the soil with a view to settlement and development.

Every separate State, therefore, should make haste to examine her own home resources, their capacity of increase, and the best mode of developing those yet lying dormant. By an intelligent policy of this sort, when fairly and broadly put into operation,

each State will be enabled over and above her mere *quota* of Federal and State taxation, to make early and easy contribution towards the payment of that large debt which the people have resolved to meet rather than suffer the Government to drift away into floating fragments of State contention and national imbecility. For when this debt shall have been canceled, the nation will have achieved its final and grandest triumph. And this mode of triumphing over difficulties apparently insuperable, is in accordance with the true American spirit, which halts at no obstacle, and spares no effort in the accomplishment of its purpose. This it is that inspires her people to span the unavigable flood with the airy but massive railroad bridge, to tunnel the mountain rather than climb it, and which will yet enable them to defy the ocean, and encircle the globe with the vocal wires of the electric telegraph.

It will be our purpose so to apply these monitions of the past to the present affairs of our own State, as to render apparent the practical duty not only of the legislator, but of every citizen who is interested in the public welfare, or jealous of the national honor.

The State of Michigan consists of two Peninsulas, known as the northern and southern, the land area of which is 56,243 square miles, or 35,995,520 acres; being 1.91 per cent. of the total area of the United States. The population in 1860 was 751,956. The northern Peninsula embraces all that portion of the north-western territory lying between lakes Michigan and Superior, and east of the rivers Menominee and Montreal, which form the boundary between it and the State of Wisconsin. It is at present divided into eight counties. Its extreme northern situation, prohibiting its use for agricultural purposes, (except to a very limited extent, in the vicinity of settlements,) its population have been hitherto confined to the development of the minerals peculiar to the region. The undeveloped portion of the mineral region embraces the larger part of the counties of Ontonagon, Houghton and Marquette. The remaining portion yet unsettled will be referred to hereafter.

The southern half of the State is a magnificent Peninsula, 280 miles in length, and 200 miles broad, in its extremest width. Surrounded on all sides, except its southern, by the waters of the great lakes, dashing like vast seas, it possesses a coast line of one thousand miles; and this, with another thousand miles on the Upper Peninsula, gives to the State over 2,000 miles of coast. This estimate does not include the coast lines of the islands, in either of the three great lakes which wash the borders of the State. This entire coast line is securely accessible at various points, and by its natural and improved harbors, together with the St. Mary's and Welland canals, opens the mineral, agricultural and other products of both Peninsulas, to the trade of the world.

The southern or settled part of the Lower Peninsula is almost exclusively an agricultural region; possessing such varieties of prairie openings, and timbered lands, as are rarely found in any other portions of the United States. It is also beautifully diversified with lakes, abounding in fish; and displays every variety of timber known to the climate.

The coal and salt basins are found in this Peninsula; and from developments already made, their products must soon take rank with the most important of our State.

The recent incipient establishment of manufactures among us, involving the use of all the different varieties of hard and soft timber, (except the pine of commerce,) such as oak, maple, butternut, basswood, &c., is bringing into active demand all this heretofore neglected class of our woods, which are reckoned as superior to those found in any other State. Massachusetts annually carries away from us immense quantities of them for the use of her shovel and other manufactures—thus bringing prominently into market a prolific source of wealth which has hitherto lain dormant.

But as the unsettled portions of the State constitute the main subject of our reflection, we proceed at once to a consideration of them.

The northern or Upper Peninsula, excepting the different