

the public resources in support of this system, and she may now boast of having within her limits the longest continuous railway in the world. It is only necessary that she should continue her patronage to this great enterprise, and she will certainly secure to herself the full development of all the advantages which her geographical position gives her in relation to the vast and rapidly increasing commerce of the west. She is happily so situated as to afford the shortest and by far the most convenient route of communication between the navigable waters of the west and of the ocean, and indeed between the Atlantic and those great inland seas which border upon our northern frontier, and which, at no distant day, are destined to become the theatre of an immense commerce; and although limited in her territory to a much smaller extent than some of her sister states, by securing to herself the channel through which the interchange of commodities between the eastern and western states will mainly pass, and which her position gives her an opportunity of effecting, she will soon find herself, in point of commercial activity and capital, second to no state in the union.

It is certain, that whatever advantages may be anticipated from the rail road system in Europe, they will be of minor importance when compared with the benefits we are destined to derive from the introduction of this system into our country. By the easy, convenient, and rapid intercourse which these roads afford, they are capable of placing, almost in juxtaposition the most remote sections of our widely extended republic, and will thus do more to perpetuate our institutions and preserve our Union than any political compacts or physical force could ever effect. The system, if advantageously applied and sufficiently extended, will give to the people of the United States an identity of feeling, a harmony of interests, and a facility of social intercourse, which must long bind them together as one great family; and secure to our country all the advan-