

## THE BIRTH NOTICES OF A STATE<sup>1</sup>

Nathaniel Hawthorne, in his delightful description in *Mosses* of a rainy afternoon's delving among the curiosities of the garret of the old manse stored "with lumber that each generation had left behind it from a period before the Revolution," relates that after looking over many ancient volumes of divinity and theology and in weariness throwing them aside, he turned to a pile of old newspapers and almanacs, which reproduced to his "mental eye the epochs when they had issued from the press with a distinctness that was altogether unaccountable." It was as if he "had found bits of magic looking glass among the books with the images of a vanished century in them." It is with some of these same bits of magic looking-glass that we will take ourselves back for seventy years and endeavor to image something of the life and events uppermost in the minds of a representative portion of the people of New England in the year 1849, at the time when the first steps were being taken to give "l'Etoile du Nord" a place in the new constellation which rose on the fourth of July, 1776. No material will be drawn on other than that found in the columns of our newspaper, the *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette*, published by Butterfield and Hill, every Thursday morning, at Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. Founded in 1809 by Isaac Hill, afterward governor of the state and United States senator, a politician of such ability and influence that he was said to carry the Granite State in his pocket, the *Patriot* was for many years the leading organ of Jacksonian Democracy in New Hampshire.

The file for the year is complete and comes to us just as it was found in the garret of an old farmhouse in Stratham,

<sup>1</sup>Read at the annual meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, February 24, 1919.

New Hampshire, each number being carefully folded.<sup>2</sup> The sheet consists of four pages somewhat larger than those in use at the present time, the first and fourth being chiefly devoted to advertising matter, legal notices, and the proceedings of the state and national legislatures. On the second page lengthy editorials and contributions from subscribers discuss from the Democratic viewpoint the politics of state and nation in the violently partisan spirit of the time; invective and ridicule are employed with a freedom and fluency which sound a little strange to us, such epithets as "liar," "hypocrite," "dough-face," and "robber" being passed back and forth in a spirit seemingly of joyous abandon. While much of this must not be taken too seriously, as it was then considered part of the game, yet underneath can be traced something of the bitterness which culminated in the Civil War. The question of slavery had become a party issue. The northern Democrats, jealous of the increasing prestige of the South in national affairs, were opposing its extension into the new territories, but in so far as the wrongs or sufferings of the slaves are concerned, little is said, and the name "abolitionist" is a byword and reproach.

During the early months of the year much space is devoted to the county conventions and the coming spring elections of state and county officials. In one of the January issues the editor apologizes for the omission of some of the miscellaneous reading on the fourth page, which has been crowded out by the great length of the legislative reports, and writes that "for the few weeks now preceding the March election, our space for miscellany may be limited, but after that time we will make up for all past omissions." As election time approaches, all loyal Democrats are charged to look well to the check lists, to see that they contain no names of illegal voters, and to be

<sup>2</sup>The file of the *Patriot* covering the issues from January 4 to December 27, 1849, has been donated to the Minnesota Historical Society by the writer of this article.

on their guard against the tricks of the unscrupulous Whigs, who "are desperate and wicked enough for any fraud upon the ballot-box by which their mercenary ends may be promoted. Therefore we say—*watch them*, WATCH THEM, WATCH THEM."

A proudly crowing rooster at the head of the editorial column for March 15, accompanied by the verse,

Oh take your time, old Rooster,  
My gallant bird and strong;  
Then clap your wings, old Chapman,  
And crow out loud and long.

proclaims the triumph of Democracy through the state, the only discordant notes in the pæan of victory being the reëlection of Amos Tuck of Exeter, the "mongrel, whig-free soil" candidate for Congress from the first district, and of James Wilson, whose reëlection is a disgrace to the Democrats of the district, from the third.

Far different, however, was the situation in national affairs. General Zachary Taylor had just taken his seat in the White House and, if the statements of our editor are to be accepted unreservedly, was stalking up and down the land after the manner of the head-hunting Igorrote, seeking out, even to the most remote borders of the nation, virtuous and competent Democrats whose official heads he might remove. Week after week under such captions as "The Axe in Motion," "More Spoilsmen Rewarded," and others of like tenor, are long lists of deserving Democrats who had been displaced by Whigs for no reason other than that they had not supported General Taylor, the man who had "no friends to reward and no enemies to punish." Among others we note that Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author, has been removed from the custom-house at Salem, Massachusetts, and even the appointments of some of Minnesota's territorial officials do not escape our editor's biting sarcasm.

In February, 1848, gold had been found at Sutter's Fort, in California. Stories of the discovery had been gradually per-

colating eastward. Letters were beginning to come through, and a few of the hardy Argonauts were returning with fragments of the golden fleece. During the winter months companies and associations for the purpose of going to the gold regions had been forming in nearly every community and had been making preparations for their departure in the spring. G. W. Simmons, proprietor of the celebrated Oak Hall clothing establishment at Boston, advertises California outfits in his "immense stock of spring goods for 1849," among the items enumerated being gold bags at a cost of fifty cents to one dollar, "thin pants adapted to that climate," from fifty cents to two dollars a pair, Bowie knives with belts for pistols, five to six dollars, and fancy soap at three to twelve and a half cents a cake. Articles both serious and humorous for and against going to California appear at intervals, and the advantages and disadvantages of the different routes are discussed at length. A rollicking sketch, entitled "A Few Days in the Diggings," by a "free and independent Yankee," will perhaps tell more vividly the story than will a more sober description: "Off to the diggings with a party; mighty small potatoes most of 'em; all sorts and colors, and everlastin ragged—Bay-statesmen, Backwoodsmen, Buckeyes from Ohio, Hosses from Kentuk, Cape Cod Whalers, St. Francisco Indians, Leperos from Santa Cruz, Texan Volunteers, Philadelphia Quakers, a Latter-Day Saint, six Irish sympathizers, twelve Yankees, as many Britishers, a squad of Deserters, a Blackfoot Guide, a Methodist Parson, and a Mormon Elder. A tarnal nigger tried to join us, but got cow-hided." In the midst of the excitement incident to the early days of the gold fever, little chance had Minnesota, with only a promise of future fortunes from her golden fields of grain, to compete with the golden sands of the modern Ophir.

Although the fervid politics of the time must have provided a certain amount of necessary excitement, other entertainment was occasionally desirable, but overindulgence in amuse-

ments could not have caused a serious drain on grandfather's pocketbook. By going to Boston the "Remarkable Fejee Mermaid" could be seen at the Boston Museum, together with the "Wonders of Nature and Art collected from all the quarters of the Globe" and the "splendid Theatrical Performances, of Tragedies, Comedies, Dramas, Operas, Spectacles, Burlettas, Farces, etc., for the unprecedented small charge of only twenty-five cents." There was no extra charge to see the performance, so if any one of too tender conscience by chance dropped in to view this unique specimen of the female of the species and should inadvertently witness the theatrical performance, he could stifle any uneasy qualms with the thought that all he wanted to see was the mermaid. Another momentous occasion, partaking in those days of the nature of a holiday, was a trip to Manchester to have a daguerreotype taken for one dollar. Those who stayed at home had to be content with an occasional concert or lecture. A brief editorial notice on January 18 announces a concert in a few weeks by Mr. J. C. Dolloff, "the Green Mountain Vocalist," especially recommended because "he repudiates the low and vulgar negro melodies, and selects only pieces of correct and elevated moral tone and pure language." In the issue of April 19 notice is given that Ossian E. Dodge, recently of the "New Branch Hutchinson Family," is to give one of his "popular and fashionable entertainments at the Depot Hall, at 7½ P. M.," tickets twelve and a half cents. There are no more entertainments until well along into June, when a cut, depicting two elephants engaged in a performance that would not be tolerated in a dry county, announces the coming on July 14 of the event dear to the small boy's heart, R. Sands and Company's Hippoferæan Arena, which would enter town preceded by the "Sacred Egyptian Dragon Chariot of Isis and Osiris, drawn by ten Egyptian Camels, containing the full Band," with the "Fairy Carriage, drawn by twenty Liliputian Ponies," bringing up the rear. The admission was twenty-five cents, without distinction of age. If any boy could not get together his twenty-five cents

in time, he had only to wait until August 17 for the coming of Van Amburgh's Menagerie, which, if the boy were not too big, could be seen for half price. The menagerie, after entering town "preceded by the colossal Tuba Rheda or Grecian Carriage, containing Col. Cobb's celebrated Military Band," would proceed to the spacious pavilion erected for the occasion, where the public could witness the thrilling feats of Mr. Van Amburgh in the dens of his wild beasts, "an interesting illustration of the ascendancy of mind over matter." The reading of this advertisement recalls the words of an old song:

Van Amburgh snaps his whip,  
The band begins to play;  
Now all you little boys and girls,  
Had better keep away.

Time will not permit of extended consideration of the advertisements, which then, as now, were a conspicuous feature, in themselves furnishing material enough for an interesting paper. One class of advertising, occupying as it did many columns of space, was becoming a source of no small revenue to the newspapers of the day. The years of the late forties witnessed the rapid rise of the patent medicine business, the Sarsaparilla war being at its height in the year 1849. Nearly every week we are greeted by the hearty, rough and ready countenance of old Dr. Jacob Townsend, which must have been as familiar in our grandfather's day, as was a few years since the serene face of Lydia Pinkham. Dr. Jacob announces himself as the discoverer of the "Genuine Original Townsend Sarsaparilla," and specially warns the public against having anything to do with the "sour, fermenting, bottle-bursting" preparation put up by an ignorant railroad and canal laborer by the name of S. P. Townsend, and states that he, Dr. Jacob, was making sarsaparilla before said S. P. Townsend was born. In an adjoining column S. P. Townsend denounces our worthy doctor as a quack and an old fraud, asserting that he had been hired at seven dollars a week for the use of his name by unscrupulous parties in order that they might reap

some of the benefits from the two hundred thousand dollars which had been spent in giving the only original and genuine S. P. Townsend's Sarsaparilla "a character and reputation throughout the United States and the greater part of the world." Evidently the sarsaparilla market was good, for in June a rival appears in the form of Sands' Sarsaparilla, put up in quart bottles, the advertisement being accompanied by a cut of a quart bottle, life size. Abstaining from the unseemly mud-flinging of the Townsends, the Sands concern devotes its space to the reproduction of lengthy testimonials from grateful individuals who had been snatched from the verge of the grave by timely and frequent use of this particular beverage. In another part of the paper Corbett's Shaker Sarsaparilla, which for many years enjoyed considerable local reputation, more modestly states its virtues.

As one by one we have been turning over our bits of magic looking-glass, visualizing pictures of the life of nearly three quarters of a century ago, the first glimpse we have of the new star is on January 25. In the miscellaneous reading on the fourth page of this issue is the following extract from the *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*: "Minnesota.—This is the euphonious name given to an extensive region lying north of Wisconsin and Iowa, in which, as western papers advise us, incipient steps have been taken towards the formation of a Territorial Government. Several promising settlements have already been made within the bounds of the new Territory. The soil, for the most part, is represented to be very good, the country is finely watered and timbered, and the climate is milder and more congenial than the corresponding latitude in New England. We well remember—it was but a few years ago—when flour, pork and potatoes were sent from this port for the supply of the few families settled where now is the beautiful and flourishing city of Milwaukee. . . . In a few years more, Minnesota, whose name sounds so strangely, will be knocking for admission into the Union as a sovereign state."

In the congressional proceedings reported in the March 1 issue, we read that in the House, on February 22, "Mr. Sibley, delegate from Wisconsin,<sup>3</sup> moved to suspend the rules for the committee of the whole to be discharged from the consideration of the Minnesota territorial bill," and it was agreed that the bill should take effect March 10. In the following issue the Minnesota government bill is reported as having been taken up by the House on March 2; while the members were engaged upon it, a message was received from the Senate, asking a conference on the House amendments to the general appropriation bill, which was agreed to, and the House then adjourned. The following day witnessed scenes of wild confusion in both branches of Congress. In the Senate, during the debate on the appropriation bill, Mr. Foote struck Mr. Cameron, while in the House, Ficklin of Illinois was knocked down by Johnson of Arkansas and carried out of the hall. Both houses adjourned *sine die* well after daylight Sunday morning. The final passage of the Minnesota bill is not reported by our editor.

For the next few weeks local politics excludes much other matter, and not until March 29 is there again mention of Minnesota, this time in an extract from the *New York Journal of Commerce*: "Minnesota.—The act organizing this new Territory, bounds it on the north by the British possessions, east by the State of Wisconsin and the Mississippi River, south by Iowa, and west by the Missouri and Whitearth rivers." The general provisions of the act are outlined. "The governor's salary is fixed at \$1500, but he receives \$1000 additional as superintendent of Indian affairs. The salary of the secretary and of each of the judges is \$1800. The legislature is to hold its first session at St. Paul." Our editor somewhat tes-

<sup>3</sup>By Wisconsin is here meant that part of the original Territory of Wisconsin included between the St. Croix and the Mississippi rivers which was cut off by the admission of Wisconsin as a state, May 29, 1848. Henry H. Sibley's right to his seat as a delegate from this section was recognized by Congress, January 15, 1849. William W. Folwell, *Minnesota, the North Star State*, 88 (Boston, 1908).

tily adds: "The officers for this new Territory have been appointed and confirmed by the Senate, as follows: For Governor, Ex-Gov. Pennington<sup>4</sup> of New Jersey, commonly called 'Broad Seal' Pennington, from his participation in the New Jersey election fraud in 1838; for Judges, Aaron Goodrich<sup>5</sup> of Tennessee, Chief Justice, David Cooper<sup>6</sup> of Penn., and Benj. B. Meeker<sup>7</sup> of Kentucky, Associates; for Secretary, Charles K. Smith<sup>8</sup> of Ohio; Henry L. Moss,<sup>9</sup> U. S. Attorney, and Joshua L. Taylor,<sup>10</sup> Marshall, both living in the territory. It

<sup>4</sup>William S. Pennington, governor of New Jersey from 1837 to 1843, was practicing law in Newark at the time the Minnesota governorship was offered him. The Senate confirmed the nomination on March 22, having refused three days before to consent to the appointment of Edward G. McGuaghey of Indiana, who was President Taylor's first choice. Pennington declined to serve; whereupon the president on April 2 issued a recess commission to Alexander Ramsey of Pennsylvania. The Senate confirmed the appointment on January 9, 1850. *Senate Executive Journals*, 8: 84, 90, 93, 94, 98, 117.

<sup>5</sup>Aaron Goodrich was a native of New York, but was appointed from Tennessee, where he had passed the greater part of his life. He became a permanent resident of St. Paul and took a prominent part in the organization of the state and in revising the laws and code of practice. J. Fletcher Williams, *History of the City of Saint Paul*, 219 (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 4); Warren Upham and Mrs. Rose B. Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 264 (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 14).

<sup>6</sup>Judge Cooper retired from the bench in 1853, but he continued to practice law in St. Paul until his removal to Nevada in 1864. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 141.

<sup>7</sup>The correct name is Bradley B. Meeker. Judge Meeker was assigned to the second judicial district and took up his residence at St. Anthony. After leaving the bench in 1853, he engaged in the real estate business. Meeker County is named for him. Holcombe, in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, 2:428 (New York, 1908); Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 501.

<sup>8</sup>Charles K. Smith resigned the secretaryship in 1851 and returned to Ohio. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 714.

<sup>9</sup>Henry L. Moss, a native of New York, who settled in Stillwater in 1848, served as district attorney until 1853. He held the same office a second time from 1863 to 1868, after which he engaged in the insurance and real estate business in St. Paul. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 529.

<sup>10</sup>Joshua L. Taylor, who came to Minnesota from Illinois in 1840 and settled at Taylor's Falls, declined the appointment, and Colonel Alexander

will be remarked that *two* of the three judges are from slave States; so the judiciary is in the hands of the slave power, and thus slavery may be protected there in open violation of the express prohibition contained in the law creating the government of the Territory."

The term, "Broad Seal" Pennington, had its origin some ten years before, in the closely contested congressional election of 1838 in New Jersey. Six congressmen were to be chosen by a general ticket. Five of the successful Whig candidates were elected by very small margins, the votes of two townships being thrown out on account of irregularities. The Democratic candidates contested the election, claiming that they had received a majority of the total vote cast. It became necessary therefore for Governor Pennington and the council to canvass the votes and decide who were the properly elected representatives. The governor, arbitrarily ruling that no legal election had been held in the townships in question, affixed the broad seal of the state to the credentials of the Whig candidates. When the Twenty-sixth Congress assembled, it developed that the membership of the House was about equally divided between the Whigs and the Democrats; the question of the validity of the election of the New Jersey congressmen was therefore vital. After nearly two weeks of stormy debates a resolution was adopted that only members whose seats were uncontested could participate in the election of a speaker and in the organization of the House. This resulted in the choice of a Democrat for speaker and, later, in the seating of the Democratic candidates from New Jersey.

In the April 5 issue of the *Patriot* it is tersely noted that "Broad Seal" Pennington, lately appointed Governor of Minnesota Territory, has declined to accept the office," and with evident pleasure the editor writes: "The federal papers are making Jacks of themselves by extolling the character and

M. Mitchell of Cincinnati was named in his place. Colonel Mitchell resigned in 1851 and two years later removed to Missouri. Williams, *St. Paul*, 221; Holcombe, in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, 2:427.

qualifications of 'E. B. Washburne,<sup>11</sup> Esq. of Galena, Illinois, the newly appointed Judge of Minesota Territory.' The newly appointed Judges of that territory are Aaron Goodrich, of Tennessee; David Cooper, of Penn.; and B. B. Meeker, of Kentucky, according to the *National Intelligencer*. It is probable that Mr. Washburne wanted to be one of the Judges, and that these *puffs* were prepared beforehand in expectation that he would be appointed." A week passes and in a rather obscurely placed paragraph it is stated that "Alexander Ramsey, member of Congress from Pennsylvania, has been appointed Governor of Minesota Territory."

During the spring and early summer months notices of Minnesota become more frequent, but apparently no adventurers had returned to New Hampshire from the far-away borders of the new territory, for most of the news is secondhand with brief comments by the editor. We read on April 19 that "the seat of government for the territory of Minesota is St. Paul's," and that "W. W. Wyman has issued a prospectus for a newspaper there." A week later the politics of the new administration intrudes itself: "Some of the Kentucky federal papers are indignant at the appointment of a Mr. Meeker of that State to the office of Judge of Minesota Territory. Some of them don't know who he is, and others declare that it is an appointment '*not fit to be made,*' as Webster said of Taylor's nomination. The general impression there appears to be that Gen. Taylor was imposed upon in the matter, as Meeker has neither the legal, mental or moral qualifications for the office, according to the Kentucky federal papers. So little known was he that when Mr. Morehead<sup>12</sup> was asked about

<sup>11</sup> Elihu B. Washburne, who was a brother of William D. Washburn, a prominent miller of Minneapolis and United States senator from 1889 to 1895, was a practicing attorney in Galena, Illinois, in 1849. He was a representative from Illinois in Congress from 1853 to 1869 and minister to France from 1869 to 1877.

<sup>12</sup> Probably Charles S. Morehead, who was a representative in Congress from Kentucky from 1847 to 1851.

him, he replied that he knew no such man; and it is said that nobody in Kentucky asked for his appointment. Then how happened it that he got the office? *He is Truman Smith's<sup>13</sup> nephew!* This appears to have been the sole reason for his appointment. This is truly 'the era of new men.'"

The first general account of the new territory, taken from the *Iowa State Gazette*, appears in the issue of May 3. After describing the boundaries, the writer says: "The population is at present very limited, and is almost entirely confined to the eastern bank of the Mississippi and the north bank of the St. Croix. The town of St. Pauls on the former, five miles below St. Peters, contains some four or five hundred inhabitants; and Stillwater, on the St. Croix, is somewhat larger. These, we believe, are the only villages worth naming in Minnesota. The principal settlement is on the St. Croix, a stream possessing great hydraulic advantages, and the banks of which are covered with inexhaustible supplies of pine. A large number of mills are in active operation at various points, running several hundred saws, and giving employment to probaly one half of the entire population of the Territory.<sup>14</sup> Indeed we are led to believe, from reliable information, that the country lying between the Mississippi and Lake Superior is chiefly valuable for its lumber, and, it may be, mineral resources. For farming purposes it is of but little value, being full of swamps, lakes, and marshes. The country west of the Mississippi is by far the best portion of Minnesota; but unfortunately the lands all

<sup>13</sup>Truman Smith, long prominent in Connecticut politics, who was just entering upon a term in the United States Senate, played a decisive part in the nomination of Zachary Taylor for president in 1848 and as chairman of the Whig national committee conducted the following presidential campaign.

<sup>14</sup>The writer's estimate of the distribution of population in Minnesota is not borne out by the census of the territory taken in June, 1849. The returns show that St. Paul had a population of 910, and Stillwater, a population of 609. Lumbering operations in the St. Croix Valley were undoubtedly the most important industry. Captain Edward W. Durant reports that seventy-five million feet of logs were scaled through the

belong to the Indians, and there is no place to which settlers can at present be invited. No time should be lost by the government in obtaining, if possible, a cession of a portion of these lands. There is a beautiful strip of country lying along the shore of Lake Pepin, owned by the Sioux half breeds, which would be speedily occupied if thrown open to white settlement.<sup>15</sup> The prosperity of Minnesota demands that every exertion be made to induce the owners of these lands to dispose of them to the government."

The life of our newly born territory is assured when we read in the issue of June 28: "On the 1st of June, Mr. Ramsay, the Governor of this new Territory, issued his proclamation from St. Paul, the capital, for the organization of the Territorial Government. An Iowa paper says it learns from a gentleman just from there that this place is the theatre of almost as much excitement as San Francisco, California. The emigration to that place and the surrounding country is immense. Hundreds are pouring in from all parts daily. Every thing in the shape of a house is filled to overflowing, and large numbers are encamped in tents for want of house room. He says that money is very plenty, and prices of lots and other property high. A large amount of English emigration has come in this spring, bringing with them plenty of funds. Minnesota bids fair for a speedy settlement and rapid improvement. Our friend was highly delighted with the beautiful ap-

St. Croix booms in the year 1849. Scarcely one quarter of the entire population of the territory, however, resided in the valley. Minnesota Archives, Executive Registers, no. 1, pp. 15, 16 (in the custody of the Minnesota Historical Society); Edward W. Durant, "Lumbering and Steamboating on the St. Croix River," in *Minnesota Historical Collections* 10:674 (part 2).

<sup>15</sup>This is the tract known as the "Wabashaw reservation," fifteen miles wide, running thirty-two miles down the west bank of the Mississippi River from Red Wing, which the Sioux in the Treaty of Prairie du Chien of 1830 stipulated should be reserved for their half-blood relatives as part of the compensation they were to receive for their cession to the United States government of a parcel of land lying between the Mississippi and

pearance of the country." A brief paragraph late in August states that the Honorable Henry H. Sibley has been elected delegate from Minnesota Territory.<sup>16</sup> With this notice closes the first year of Minnesota's history as recorded in the columns of our newspaper. Soon the snow and ice of winter will close the routes of travel to the new, far-away settlements, and Minnesota will quietly sleep away the first winter of its existence. Other matters are claiming the interest of the readers of our paper. The cholera, which during the previous winter had been prevalent in the southern cities, had gradually spread northward and was becoming a matter of serious concern, and as the year closes, the murder of Dr. Parkman by Professor Webster in Boston is on everyone's lips and is set forth in the paper in all its gruesome details.

Some verses on the beautiful river which bears our state's name, found in the issue of September 6, are a fitting close to our story. These, it is stated, were written for the *New Hampshire Patriot* by Mrs. Mary H. Eastman, "the lady of an officer of the army, a native and for a long time a resident of Concord. They are dedicated to a beautiful river in the youthful territory of Minnesota, which from the impulse of Yankee emigration 'Westward ho' will soon be seeking admission to the Union. The stanzas are replete with finely formed ideas expressed in the true spirit of poesy."<sup>17</sup>

the Des Moines rivers. Through the efforts of Henry M. Rice it was surveyed and thrown open to settlement by the act of Congress of July 17, 1854. Folwell, *Minnesota*, 117; United States, *Statutes at Large*, 7:328; 10:304.

<sup>16</sup>The election was held August 1. Sibley was chosen without any opposition.

<sup>17</sup>Mary Henderson Eastman was the wife of Captain Seth Eastman, who was in command at Fort Snelling at different times from 1840 to 1848. Mrs. Eastman is best known as the author of *Dahcotah; or, Life and Legends of the Sioux around Fort Snelling*, published in New York in 1849. Her stanzas on the Minnesota River were printed first in the *Minnesota Pioneer* of August 9, 1849, accompanied by a statement of the editor that they were written for that particular publication.

Fair Minesota! by thy shore  
 No longer may I rest,  
 Watching the sun's bright beams that dance  
 And sparkle on thy breast;  
 No longer may I see the glow  
 Of evening fade away,  
 Or the morning mists that gently rise  
 When breaks the summer's day.

Full often have I gazed on thee  
 And thought of friends and home,  
 And prayed that blessings on them all  
 Like the dew from Heaven might come.  
 And when at night the stars came out  
 To gild the sky and thee,  
 I knew that God, who loveth all,  
 Watched between them and me.

And when the cares, that all must know,  
 My spirit bowed to earth,  
 When sadly o'er my heart would fall  
 The laugh of joy and mirth;  
 I watched thy waves so calm and bright  
 And peace would come again  
 Like freshness on the parched-up hills  
 When falls the summer's rain.

Thy valleys green will be a home  
 To many a stirring mind;  
 Sorrow will seek thy shores, in hopes  
 A hiding place to find;  
 Wealth, too, will come, and in its track  
 Beauty and luxury;  
 And where the white man never trod  
 His power supreme shall be.

But tell me, Minesota,  
 When the solemn night winds sigh,  
 Dost thou bear on to ocean's bed  
 The Indian's mournful cry?  
 Thou see'st him rudely thrust aside,  
 Thou see'st th' oppressor's might,  
 Crushing his liberty of soul,  
 The red man's sacred right.

Oh! would their laws were equal,  
 Like brothers they might live;  
 That white men for the lands they claim  
 Would truth and justice give;  
 That the Herald of the Cross might bring  
 His holy precepts home,  
 When by a christian people's course  
 A christian's faith is shown.

Schools will rise up—but tell me,  
 Will the red man's sons be there?  
 Churches—but say, will hallow them  
 The red man's humble prayer?  
 The stars and stripes will wave aloft—  
 Witnesses will they be,  
 That God has given the right to all,  
 Of life and liberty?

So may it prove, fair river!  
 That when shall flow no more  
 Thy waves or Time's—but landed on  
 Eternity's vast shore;  
 The white man and the Indian  
 Free from sorrow, care or pain,  
 May together drink of Life's pure stream  
 And never thirst again.

All this from a bundle of old newspapers!

HERBERT C. VARNEY

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



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