

toric preservation, is the leading editorial article of the first number of the first newspaper in Grand Rapids. It is interesting for its glowing anticipations:

“The Rochester of Michigan.”

(From the Grand River Times, April 18, 1837.)

“Though young in its improvements, the site of this village has long been known and esteemed for its natural advantages. It was here that the Indian traders long since made their grand depot. It was at this point that the missionary herald established his institution of learning—taught the forest child the beauty of civilization, and inestimable benefits of the Christian religion. This has been the choicest, dearest spot to the unfortunate Indian, and now is the pride of the white man. Like other villages of the west, its transition from the savage to a civilized state has been as sudden as its prospects are now flattering.

“Who would have believed, to have visited this place two years since, when it was only inhabited by a few families, most of whom were of French origin, a people so eminent for exploring the wilds and meandering rivers, that this place would now contain its twelve hundred inhabitants? Who would have imagined that thus rapid would have been the improvement of this romantic place? The rapidity of its settlement is beyond the most visionary anticipation; but its location, its advantages, and its clime were sufficient to satisfy the observing mind that nothing but the frown of Providence could blast its prospects!

“The river upon which this town is situated is one of the most important and delightful to be found in the country—not important and beautiful alone for its clear, silver-like water winding its way through a romantic valley of some hundred miles, but for its width and depth, its susceptibility for steam navigation, and the immense hydraulic power afforded at this point.

“We feel deeply indebted to our Milwaukee friends for their lucid description of the advantages to be derived from a connection with the waters of this river with those of Detroit, by canal or railroad. A canal is nearly completed around the Rapids at this place, sufficiently large to admit boats to pass up