

Liverpool Aug 27 1875

W Thompson, Esq
Vice President.

London

My dear Sir:

I will give you in writing a brief resume of my views in reference to the Mississippi Valley Society and its organization as expressed to you in our several conversations.

The great water-shed of the Mississippi embraces a vast and fertile territory capable of sustaining hundreds of millions of people, its navigable waters extend twenty eight thousand miles - its soil produces in greatest abundance - Cotton, Cereals and Sugar and in many portions inexhaustible stores of minerals under its surface - within my memory this land was the home of the red man - and where now are harvest fields - he had his hunting ground and the golden spire, of Christian temples rise in place of the smoke of his wigwam, within the recollection of living men the first steam boat ascended the great river from which our Society takes its name, now thousands float down upon its waters bringing its productions to your ships and sending the living current of commerce to your wharves your factories and your stores.

The primal idea of our Society is