

connections, they penetrate every portion of the country east of the Rocky Mountains, and at Omaha, St. Louis and Little Rock, they receive the immense freights of the trans-continental roads that carry the commerce of the Pacific slope. A straight line drawn from Boston to New Orleans passes within ten miles of the city, while Baltimore is immediately on this direct line, and New York, Philadelphia and Washington City are but a few miles to the east of it. Thus the natural conditions and configurations of this section of the country, make Lynchburg an important center of trade and travel, and therefore it is no wonder that within the past few years the city has commanded a prominent position in the commercial development of the South.

That this locality is destined to be the site of an important city, is revealed in a study of the country's topography, which develops many strikingly interesting facts in addition to those which have already been mentioned. James River, which sweeps from the Alleghanies to the sea, starts from a point near Clifton Forge, and for seventy-five miles flows in a southerly direction, and then, making an abrupt curve, bends towards the north for an almost equal distance. On the curve of the James and on its southern bank is located the city of Lynchburg. In all the course of the river, from its cradle in the mountains to Bermuda Hundreds, many miles below Richmond, there is no point that lies farther to the South than Lynchburg. Owing to the peculiar conformation of the land on which it is built, Lynchburg is frequently called the Hill City. It fronts along the river for three miles and rises directly from this stream in a series of steps to the College Hill reservoir, which occupies an elevation above the river of three hundred and thirty feet. Like ancient Rome Lynchburg is marked off by its hills into distinct divisions, which are designated as follows: Rivermont, Daniels Hill, College Hill, Diamond Hill, Franklin Hill, and White Rock Hill.

Many interesting stories are handed down about Lynchburg's early experiences. The herds of Buffalo which formerly abounded in this region were, according to tradition, accustomed to cross the river at this point, in their annual migrations to and from the South. These animals are said to be by instinct fine topographical engineers, and when once east of the Blue Ridge they found this to be the most eligible passage of the river. There is confirmation of this tradition in the local names still preserved, such as Buffalo Gap, Buffalo Ridge, Buffalo River, etc. The Indians, from all accounts, took lessons in engineering from the Buffalo, and there is reliable testimony to the fact that an Indian trail crossed the James in the vicinity of the present site of Lynchburg. Just below this site there was an Indian village and trading station as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In addition to its possession of an advantageous situation with respect to trade and commerce, Lynchburg is highly favored in the picturesque beauty of the landscape which surrounds it in every direction. From elevated points in the city, the undulating line of the Blue Ridge mountains is in full view for almost a hundred miles. Looking to the west and the northwest,