

Quotes from Increase Lapham (1811-1875)

“I have spoken of the beauty of the prairies, but it must not be forgotten that although they are beautiful and highly attractive at first sight, they are not, after all, exactly the places for the new settler to fix upon for his future home, unless he can find, what is rarely to be found, a tract of land half covered with timber and half prairie....

“The bleak winds of winter roam over these proud prairies with as much freedom as upon ‘Old Ocean’ itself, and they are here without the modifying influence of water. They are therefore much dreaded by the luckless persons who are compelled to encounter them. Even in summer, the constant stream of air coming in the same direction unchecked by a single tree is very inconvenient to persons passing over the prairies. I have known persons to have their cheeks chafed and become sore by the fluttering of their shirt collars while traveling on the prairies! This was, of course, in the prosperous days of shirt collars and before they assumed their present downward tendency.”

Quotes are from a February, 4 1848 lecture to the Milwaukee High School on Wisconsin’s diverse landscapes and natural beauty, printed in *AFIELD, Portraits of Wisconsin Naturalists, Empowering Leopold’s Legacy* by author, Sumner Matteson (Little Creek Press, January 2020; littlecreekpress.com).

