

XII.—THE ERIE CANAL AND THE GREAT LAKES.

Mack'-i-nac [-naw]. | **Mich'-i-gan** [Mish'-]. | **Chi-ca'-go** [-kaw'-].

1. FROM Albany, a canal has been made through the Mohawk valley, connecting the Hudson with Lake Erie. It is a broad, deep channel filled with water, on which boats run between the river and the lake. Lake Erie is one of the five Great Lakes which extend along the northern border of the United States. By the Hudson, the Erie Canal, and the Great Lakes, we have a water route all the way from New York to the great grainfields on the prairies.

2. Canal boats, loaded at New York, are towed by steamboats up the river, and are drawn on the canal by horses walking on a *towpath* beside it. At length they reach *Buffalo*, a large city at the east end of Lake Erie. The goods are now taken from them, and put upon larger boats which sail upon the lakes; and the canal boats are loaded with grain, lumber, and other freight, and sent back to New York.

3. Lake Erie is very different from the little lakes found among the hills on the upper Mississippi. It is much longer than the whole distance from New York to Troy; and it is so wide, that, if we were in the middle of it, we could scarcely see land on either side.

4. Sometimes, when the wind blows hard, the water is lifted up in great ridges, with deep hollows between them, like little hills and valleys in the lake. These movements of water are called *waves*, and they heave