

that government of and by and for the people may never perish from the earth.

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget.

Far-called our navies melt away,
On dune and headlands sinks the fire;
Lo! all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe—
Such boasting as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the Law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

THERE IS NO WILD WEST.

[“Current Literature” for April.]

There is no portion of our national story more thrilling in adventure, more interesting in its record of heroic endurance and indomitable effort than that which records the advance of civil life from the slopes of the Alleghanies to the coast line of the Pacific. Only the self-reliance, the high privilege to conceive and execute which is inspired in the citizen by the spirit of our institutions, could have accomplished such magnificent results as now appear in the proud domain known as the “Great West.” Less than fifty years ago this was a wilderness extending from the Lakes to the Pacific, unsurveyed and almost unexplored. The Sioux and Apache and other hostile tribes disputed with savage bravery all advances of peaceful or industrial life.

Within almost a generation this broad area has become an empire of active industry and great commercial prosperity. There is no record that portrays to a greater degree such a courage of manhood, such faith in power to accomplish, such a wealth of patriotism as has been here manifested in the subjection of nature, such a triumph of the arts, such a development of national civilization and social advancement.

The magnitude of these splendid results will be better appreciated when it is understood that this domain of our republic lying west of the Mississippi embraces seventy per cent, or over two-thirds of the area of the United States, not including Alaska. All of this territory has been and is being brought to a higher, better and purer civilization than could have been dreamed of by our wisest statesmen. Such have been the conquests of peace by the inspiring spirit of our institutions and American manhood.

It will be remembered in contemplating the advancement of the arts of peace to the westward developing a wonderful industry and commercial enterprise in the great area west of the Mississippi, that in 1840 Chicago, now the great metropolis, had but 4,500 inhabitants.

There was not a bridge over the Mississippi nor any of the great rivers west to the Pacific. The buffalo roamed from the Rio Grande to the Red river of the North. The treasures of California had not been discovered. The munificent resources of mines, of plains and forests were conjectured, but not known. The wealth of this domain of valleys and mountain ranges, of forests and fields, that stretched out in loneliness but beauty towards the setting suns, was not alone in these inexhaustible resources so prodigally provided, but in the courage, self-reliance, hardy manhood and unfaltering faith of the sturdy pioneers, who crossed the Mississippi and Missouri and those who followed immediately in their footsteps. They were the “avant couriers” of this splendid civil life now existing. Those magnificent results now before and around us have been mainly accomplished since the close of the civil war. Now five great trans-continental lines of railroad traverse the great plains, pierce the Rockies, and the Sierras, and bind the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific with bands of steel. The frontiers have vanished. The great plains of Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas have been transformed into immense fields of grain that undulate in the summer breeze like the waves of the sea. Through those the Missouri peacefully pursues its tortuous course to its confluent, the Mississippi, like a thread of silver in a cloth of gold. The same spirit of freedom and adventure that landed at Plymouth Rock and Jamestown was inherited by the sons of the Puritan and cavalier, and has in the century inspired those who crossed the continent and have brought the wealth of gold and silver from the hills of Colorado and California that excel the fabled stories of Ophir and Tarshish.

The evidences of this social and material civilization with such wonderfully transforming power over the area beyond the Mississippi are manifest and many. In this area are nineteen states and four great territories, containing 2,117,920 square miles, with a population in 1890 of 12,463,366, and now estimated at 16,000,000. There are 164 cities, having each a population in excess of 5,000; 80 cities in excess of 10,000; 36 cities exceeding 20,000 each; and eight cities each in excess of 100,000. Here are 83,329 miles of railroads not only traversing this great domain from east to west, but north and south from Manitoba to the Gulf and to Old Mexico, form a vast network of transportation lines upon which an immense internal traffic is conducted that represents a wonderful exchange of domestic commodities that in value exceeds the wealth of the Indies.

The harbors of the Pacific are crowded with ships of the Orient, and isles of the sea laden with the teas of China and Japan, the silks of India, the coffees and spices of South America and the

isles of the Pacific bring their rich contributions to the great volume of traffic that daily moves from the west to the east over the trans-continental lines. These are the rich compensations that have been returned for the lavish investment of energy, industry, intelligence, and manhood that flowed from east to west in such recent years.

While the Great West has contributed an immense volume to the wealth of the republic, and that contribution is yearly increased, they who have lavishly furnished the energy and measured their manhood with the forces of nature have received liberal rewards. The people of the West are growing richer; questionable as it may seem, nevertheless it is true they are growing rich more rapidly than they of the East.

The wealth of those who dwell west of the Mississippi in real and personal property in 1890 aggregated the sum of \$20,744,925,947, less than one-fifth of the population with nearly one-third of the wealth of the nation. The per capita wealth was \$1,622. All of this has been acquired within about a generation. This much excels the per capita wealth of any state or section of the Union east of the Mississippi. In the light of this fact how unwarranted the statement of some that the West is poor and growing poorer. Let a few comparisons be made. The per capita wealth of Kansas is \$1,261; Nebraska, \$1,205; Maine \$740; New Hampshire, \$863; in North Dakota, \$1,844; South Dakota, \$1,293; in New York, \$1,430; Pennsylvania, \$1,177; Ohio, \$1,076; Montana, \$3,429; Wyoming, \$2,797; and California, \$2,097; Connecticut, \$1,119; Massachusetts, \$1,252; New Jersey, \$1,117; and Delaware, \$1,043; and the per capita wealth of all the people in the United States was \$1,036. It will be seen the per capita wealth of the West was \$560 above the general average.

More ample have been the almost fabulous returns from the farms of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and Dakotas, and the fields, orchards and vineyards of California; from the wide ranges of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, the fields, fisheries and forests of Washington and Oregon. In California the value of the wheat crop alone from 1868 to 1890 was \$228,879,467 greater than all the gold and silver taken from the mines in that time. The total value of the wheat crop for these years was \$628,040,810. The wheat crop of the states and territories west of the Mississippi in 1897 was worth at home \$250,000,000, or nearly three times the value of all the gold and silver mined in the United States, Alaska included. Is this not a splendid tribute to the resources of soil and climate and the industry of the people of the great West?

The West has become the granary of the world. But the political pessimist