

and the desire made a demand and the demand made a value and a price.

Then because of occasional crop failures through drouth or grasshoppers, discontent developed and growlers,

**Growlers.** carpers, fault-finders

and all the breeds of never-dowell folk began to revile the country and the lands. And many of them for political purposes, laid all the woes of the people to incorporated capital generally and to railroads especially. Then the Peoples party and the Farmers' Alliance party began the propaganda of populism. They denounced all railroad rates as extortionate. They declared that no man could make a living by farming because the railroads charged all the farm products were worth to get them to market. And this howl of anguished mendacity rent the skies from one end of the state to the other until many believed all the untruths and made a strong political party based thereupon.

But while confidently and with great show of sincerity, the assertion that the

**Queer.** lands were useless for farming purposes, because of

ruinous railroad rates, was sent broadcast over the country the prices of the aforesaid lands were steadily rising. And in 1896 even when everybody was told that unless the free coinage of silver, in unlimited quantities, at the sacred ratio of sixteen to one was entered upon by the government of the United States distress would be universal—the lands aforesaid held their own or steadily rose in value. And they are still rising in 1901 because demand for them is still increasing. Queer how many fools the world has with money in their pockets with which to buy lands at thirty, forty, fifty, seventy-five dollars an acre, in Nebraska, upon which all Bryanarchy has solemnly asserted nobody can make a living! Queer dementia—epidemic madness—to buy lands at big prices which will not pay the man who cultivates them enough to live upon!

And now on the same stage upon which the curtain rose in 1854 are more than a million

**More than a Million.** actors. The hum of contented industry and the hymn of domestic endearment break upon the ear from thousands of prosperous factories and tranquil homes. There are comparatively few men who stepped out upon these peopleless prairies in 1854 and witnessing the first act in the foundation of a great state have been, by a kind Providence, permitted to tarry as interested spectators through all the changing scenes of forty-six years. A most lively and appreciative gratefulness should shine from all the eyes which have looked upon the enchantry of self-reliant and intelligent industry, which in that time has con-

verted desolation into beauty and savage wilderness into the comfortable abode of educated and refined society. No other generation of Americans have ever witnessed such exalting and satisfying dramatization of strenuous life. There is no stage like the great plains left upon this continent where, in all its realism of courage and triumph, of sorrow and joy, it can ever be repeated. Those who come after us must be content with less impressive and more slowly changing acts and scenes.

#### BEQUESTS.

If there had never been any acquisitiveness successful in the United States and therefore no immensely wealthy men, there could have been no great gifts to educational and charitable institutions. During the year 1900 the donations from living rich men and dying rich men to the cause of education and to various religious sects and to sundry hospitals and homes for indigent aged people in the United States aggregated more than one hundred millions of dollars.

Who gave this enormous sum to be so distributed for the betterment of the

**Who Gave?** race in this republic, for the alleviation of human

suffering and the development of moral and mental strength among Americans? Was this thoughtful and discriminating benevolence evolved out of populism, pauperism, communism or socialism? Did the donors of these vast sums of money for praiseworthy purposes agree with Fourier in France or Bryanarchy in America? Did they hold, with that leading thinker of French communism, Prudohn, that "all property is robbery," or did they agree with his American imitators that the gold standard is making the rich richer and the poor poorer all over the world?

All these gifts came from capitalists, that is to say, from men who, by frugality and wise industry and wise industry

**Capitalists.** of hand and head, had saved up

fortunes to be used for the advancement and elevation of mankind. No college, no asylum, no hospital, no home for the aged and indigent was ever endowed by a teacher of economic vagaries and financial heresies such as have been promulgated by the Bryanarchists of the United States during the last eight years. Capital, legitimate capital, can be evolved only out of enlightened selfishness. And only enlightened selfishness can understand, appreciate and enjoy the divine luxury of doing good. Capital represents industry, temperance, honesty, good judgment, self-reliance, self-denial and self-respect. Without some of these aids and qualifications capital is never acquired in a single generation by any breed of mankind. And capital does more than Christianity for the human

race every year of the century, and has been, for centuries past, the chief engineer of the intellectual and moral advancement of the world. It has built the ships that carried and maintained the flag, that protected the commerce of the globe, and permitted the missionaries and their bibles to invade the lands of the so-called heathen. Except for capital no bibles could have been published, no churches erected, no missionaries supported.

Who, then, are the maligners of capital? Who the miscreants, that, day after day, decry capital

**Maligners.** as a tyrant and demand en-

actments to restrict its influence and freedom? Who are the men that endeavor, with words of hot falsehood and strenuous slander, to sunder laborers from capitalists? Who are the declaimers dealing out discontent in the United States and inciting all those who have been indolent, intemperate and unfortunate in their lives to hate all those who, by sobriety, industry and self-denial, have acquired competencies?

They certainly are not builders. They can destroy but they never construct.

**Not Builders.** In Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and all other relatively

new states the fault-finders, the wrath-cultivators, have never built a railroad, a mill, a packing house, a canning factory, or any other industrial plant which employs and pays laborers? The men, who, in all those states, have proclaimed for years that the farmers were robbed by elevators, railroads and middlemen generally are not the men who have caused the lands of those farmers to double, treble and quadruple in selling values in a single decade. Capital which has built factories and condensed the bulk and enhanced the value of land products in Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, and capital which has increased the facilities and reduced the cost of distribution by building railroads in those states, has made farm lands worth more and the demand for them more and more importunate.

**SELF-DENIAL.** A distinction between the savage and the civilized

man is that the former is never taught self-denial while the latter, if properly brought up, is always taught self-denial. Every pleasant home, every useful and beautiful building in the world represents self-denial that has been practiced by some human being either in this or a former generation. Every American boy and girl ought to be taught first to rely upon self—self-helpfulness, then self-denial, and out of the two teachings self-respect will be evolved and then the individual is safe from ordinary temptations.