

oping country, carrying in its grasp the material for adventure and speculation, arouses ambitious aspirations in the energetic student.

With the tide of immigration westward, there is heard far above the hum of industry, a cry, for intellectual assistance. And the apprentice with his trade half mastered, and the student with his course partially completed drops all and responds to this universal cry. Young men blinded by ambition, and hurried on by this same motive, step from the door of the village school-house into the halls of colleges of Law, Theology and Medicine; and the lapse of six months or a year finds them staggering under the burden of a diploma.

The gradual settlement of a new country affords at once an opportunity for their supposed attainments, and the hardy adventurers that ever frequent and court the dangers and privations of frontier life, are as little inclined to recognising the inferiority of their leaders, as the recipients of their applause and honor are prejudiced against any thing higher. In this state of society there are few inducements to attain the more artistic beauty of perfection. The judge who has "fire in his eye," the lawyer who can harangue a jury the longest and loudest, or a minister that can draw the fiendish darts of fire and brimstone in the most glaring light, has more authority and influence than all the culture and reason that exists.

But a time must come after this tide of immigration has swept away, when society, drained of its adventurous characters, must change its tone. It is man's higher nature to attain that which is in itself perfection. A settlement excluded from the civilized world, will gradually develop into a higher intellectual and moral state. But throw it open to the influence of commercial and foreign customs, and it will rise immediately to a plain of intelligence parallel to its associates; for into it is constantly poured a current of pure

thought and action—a vitalizing influence that will cry for culture, louder than the cry of the rushing tide of immigration that has rolled from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Such changes are apparent every day. With the increased facilities for transportation,—the industries of a people, society is gradually blended into one harmonious whole. The rugged characteristics of the New England States have gradually disappeared from their associations with the South and West. A growing sentiment of practical utility is gradually springing into existence. The demand for able mechanics, in the field of art, and men of broad culture in the field of science, is the spirit of the age.

The lower rounds of the ladder are fast giving way under the colossal weight that rests upon them. And he who by chance still clings to the sides must be content with the little influence he can wield. If he would speak to the world, he must ascend still higher that he may be seen by all. He must grasp that element of power and influence—culture, broad in meaning, deep in its understanding. Then with the short rout to honor and a higher influence gradually closing against him, the American is also compelled to attain a higher standard for intellectual action. And unless he do so, he must fall far short of his expectations. Spurred on by this incentive and moved by the reward and honor that awaits him at his journey's end, he that endeavors to attain true culture finds it a work of pleasure and satisfaction that he alone can appreciate, and a power that the world must acknowledge as stable.

KNOWLEDGE AND ITS USE.

To acquire theoretical knowledge by simple study is a minor part of true education. But to learn to use that knowledge, which is essential to an accurate and speedy solution of the practical duties of life, should be a true ideal of all instruction. In the class room we are