

KANSAS: 1541—1891.

The other continents are convex, with an interior dome or range, from whose declivities the waters descend to the circumference; but North America is concave, having mountain systems parallel with its eastern and western coasts, whose principal streams fall into the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Between the Appalachian and the Cordilleran regions a vast central valley, more than two thousand miles wide from rim to rim, extends with uniform contour from the tropics to the pole. The crest of this colossal cavity nearly coincides with the boundary between the Dominion and the United States, its northern part drained by the Mackenzie and Red rivers into the Arctic Ocean, and its southern, by the Mississippi and its six hundred tributaries, into the Gulf of Mexico.

In a remote geological age this continental trough was the bed of an inland sea, whose billows broke upon the Alleghanies and the Rocky Mountains—archipelagoes with precipitous islands rising abruptly from the desolate main.

The subsiding ocean left enormous saline deposits, which, at varying depths, underlie much of its surface, and which later were succeeded by tropical forests and jungles, nurtured by heat and moisture, their carbon stratified in the coal measures of the interior, and beneath whose impervious shadows, after many centuries, wandered herds of gigantic monsters, their fossil remains yet found in the loess of the Solomon and the

Smoky Hill. In a subsequent epoch, as the land became cooler by radiation and firmer by drainage, the saurians were succeeded by ruminants, like the buffalo and the antelope, which pastured in myriads upon the succulent herbage, and followed the seasons in their endless migrations.

Mysterious colonizations of strange races of men—the Aztecs, the Mound-builders, the Cave dwellers—whose genesis is unknown, appeared upon the fertile plains and perished, leaving no traces of their wars and their religions, save the rude weapons that the plough exhumes from their ruined fortifications, and the broken idols that irreverent science discovers in their sacrificial mounds.

Upon the western acclivity of the basin, where its synclinal axis is intersected by its greater diameter, lies the State of Kansas—"Smoky Waters"; so called from the blue and pensive haze which in autumn dims the recesses of the forests, the hollows of the hills, and broods above the placid streams like a covenant of peace. It is quadrangular—save for the excision of its northeastern corner by the meanderings of the Missouri—200 miles wide by 400 miles long, and contains the geographical centre of the territory of the United States. Its area of 52,000,000 acres gradually ascends from an elevation of 600 feet above tide-water to the altitude of 4,000 feet at its western boundary. It has a mean annual temperature of 53°, with a rainfall of 37 *plus* inches; an average of 30 thunderstorms, 198 days exempt from frost, and 136,839 miles of wind every year. This inclined plane is reticulated by innumerable *arroyos*, or dry runs, which collect the storm waters, whose accumulations scour deepening channels in the friable soil as they creep sinuously eastward, forming by their union the Kaw (or Kansas) and Arkansas rivers.

The confines of the valleys are the "bluffs," no higher than the general level of the land, worn into ravines and gulches by frost and wind and rain, carving the limestone ledges into fantastic architecture, and depositing at their base an alluvion of inexhaustible fertility. Dense forests of elm, cottonwood, walnut, and sycamore, mantled with parasitic growths, clothe the cliffs and crags with verdure, and gradually encroach upon the "rolling prairies." The eye wanders with tranquil satisfaction and unalloyed delight over these fluctuating fields, treeless except along the margins of the indolent streams; gorgeous in summer with the fugitive splendor of grass and flowers, in autumn billows of bronze, and in winter desolate with the melancholy glory of undulating snows.

By imperceptible transition, the rolling prairies merge into the "Great Plains," plateaus elevated above the humid currents of the atmosphere; rainless except for casual showers; presenting a sterile expanse, with vegetation repulsive and inedible; a level monotony broken at irregular intervals by detached knobs and isolated buttes. Above their vague and receding horizon forever broods a pathetic and mysterious solemnity, born of distance, silence, and solitude.

The dawn of modern history broke upon Kansas three and a half centuries ago, when Marcos de Naza, a Franciscan friar, returning from a missionary tour among the Pueblos, brought rumors of populous cities and mines richer than Golconda and Potosi in the undiscovered country beyond the Sierra Madre. In 1541, twenty years after the conquest of Mexico by Cortez, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, under the orders of Mendoza, Viceroy of India, with a little army of 300 Spaniards and 800 Mexicans, marched northward from Culiacan, then the limit of Spanish dominion, on an errand of discovery and spoliation.

Crossing the mountains at the head of the Gila River, he reached the sources of the Del Norte, and continued northeasterly into the Mississippi Valley, descending from the plains to the prairies, crossing the present area of Kansas diagonally nearly to the fortieth degree of north latitude.

At the farthest point reached in his explorations he erected a high cross of wood, with the inscription, "Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, commander of an expedition, reached this place." He left some priests to establish missions among the Indians, but they were soon slain. In his report to Mendoza, at Mexico, Coronado wrote:

"The earth is the best possible for all kinds of productions of Spain. I found prunes, some of which were black, also excellent grapes and mulberries. I crossed mighty plains and sandy heaths, smooth and wearisome, and bare of wood, and as full of crooked back oxen as the mountain Serena in Spain is of sheep."

Coronado was followed sixty years later by Don Juan de Onate, the conqueror of New Mexico, and in 1662 by Penalosa, then its Governor, who marched from Santa Fe, and was profoundly impressed by the agricultural resources of the country which he traversed.

The desultory efforts of the Spaniards to subdue the savages and acquire control of the territory continued for a century, when the French became their competitors, under the leadership of Marquette, Joliet, Hennepin, Theriville, and La Salle, by whom formal possession of the Mississippi Valley was taken in 1682 for Louis XIV. By this monarch the whole province of Louisiana, including what is now called Kansas, with a monopoly of traffic with the Indian tribes, was granted in 1712 to Crozat, a wealthy merchant of Paris, who soon surrendered his patent, and its privileges were transferred to the Mississippi Company. Under their auspices the city of New

Orleans was founded in 1718 by Bienville, who, in the following year, dispatched an expedition under the command of Colonel du Tissonet, who visited the Osages at their former location in Kansas, and crossed the prairies 120 miles to the villages of the Pawnees at the mouth of the Republican River, where Fort Riley now stands. He continued his march westward 200 miles to the land of the Padoucahs, where he also set up a cross, with the arms of the French king, September 27, 1719.

In 1724 De Bourgmont explored northern Kansas, starting from the "Grand Détour," where the city of Atchison now stands. In 1762 Kansas, with the rest of the Louisiana Territory, was ceded by France to Spain. In 1801 it was retroceded by Spain to France. On the 30th of April, 1803, it was sold by Napoleon, then First Consul, to the United States, Thomas Jefferson, President. This was the largest real-estate transaction which occurred that year, being 756,961,280 acres for \$27,267,621, being at the rate of about 3½ cents per acre. The Anglo-Saxon was at last in the ascendant.

Attached in 1804 by act of Congress to the "Indian Territory," the following year to the "Territory of Louisiana," and in 1812 to the "Territory of Missouri," Kansas remained, after the admission of that State in 1820, detached, without local government or a name, until its permanent organization thirty-four years afterwards.

This mysterious region, so far, so fascinating, the object of so much interest and desire, inaccessible except by long voyages on mighty rivers whose sources were unknown, or by weary journeys in slow caravans disappearing beyond the frontier, had for some unknown reason long been marked on the maps of explorers and described in the text of geographers as the "Great American Desert."

Though for many centuries populous and martial Indian tribes, the aristocracy of the continent, making war their occupation and the chase their pastime, had, without husbandry, sustained their wild cavalry upon its harvests; though the Spanish adventurers had reported that "its earth was strong and black, well watered by brooks, streams, and rivers"; though the French trappers and *voyageurs* had enriched the merchants of St. Louis, New Orleans, and Paris with its furs and peltries; though Lewis and Clarke had penetrated its solitudes and blazed a pathway to the Pacific; though Pike had discovered the frowning peak indissolubly associated with his name; and Pursley and the traders of Santa Fé had traversed the prairies of the Arkansas and the mesas of the Pecos—yet, in popular belief half a century ago the trans-Missouri plains were classed with the steppes of Tartary and the arid wastes of Gobi.

The flight of the Mormons to Salt Lake in 1844, and the California exodus in 1849, following the trail which was succeeded by the pony express, the overland stage-line, and the Union Pacific Railroad, familiarized thousands of travelers from all parts of the country with its enchanting landscape, its superb climate, and its unrivalled though unsuspected capacities for agriculture and civilization. To them it was not a desert; it was an oasis, compared with which, in resources, fertility, and possibilities of opulence, all the rest of the earth was Sahara.

The surf of the advancing tide of population chafed restlessly against the barrier, realizing the truth of the majestic and impressive sentence of Tocqueville, written a quarter of a century before:

"This gradual and continuous progress of the European race towards the Rocky Mountains has the solemnity of a providential event; it is like a deluge of men rising unabatedly, and daily driven onward by the hand of God."

The origin or genesis of States is usually obscure and legendary, with prehistoric periods from which they gradually emerge like coral islands from the deep. Shadowy and crepuscular intervals precede the day, in whose uncertain light men and events, distorted or exaggerated by tradition, become fabulous, like the gods and goddesses, the wars and heroes of antiquity. But Kansas has no mythology; its history has no twilight. The foundation-stones of the State were laid in the full blaze of the morning sun, with the world as interested spectators. Its architects were announced, their plans disclosed, and the workmen have reared its walls and crowned its dome without concealment of their objects, and with no attempt to disguise their satisfaction with the results. Nothing has been done furtively nor in a corner.

The first bill for the organization of Kansas was presented by Senator Douglas in 1843, under the name of the Territory of Nebraska. The next, two years later, named it the Territory of Platte, and afterwards it was again twice called Nebraska.

January 23, 1854, Senator Douglas reported as a substitute for his former measure the bill for the organization of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, which, after fierce and acrimonious debate, passed both houses of Congress, and was approved by President Pierce on the 30th of May. The eastern, northern, and southern boundaries of Kansas were the same as now. Its western limit extended 673 miles, to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, including more than half of the present area of Colorado, with its richest mines and its largest cities.

Intense political excitement preceded and followed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which gave the measure its chief political significance, and the conquest of Kansas was not

the cause, but the occasion, of the conflict which ensued. The question of freedom or slavery in the Territory, and in the State to be, was important, it is true, but it was merely an incident in the tragedy, unsurpassed in the annals of our race, opening with the exchange of fourteen slaves for provisions by the Dutch man-of-war in the harbor of Jamestown in 1619, and whose prologue was pronounced by the guns that thundered their acclamations when the Confederate flag was lowered for the last time upon the field of Appomattox.

The incipient commonwealth lay in the westward path of empire—the zone within which the great commanders, orators, philosophers, and prophets of the world have been born; in which its Savior was crucified; in which its decisive battles were fought, its victories over man and nature won; the triumphs of humanity and civilization achieved.

Had the formation of its domestic institutions alone been the stake, it would still have been compensative for the valor of heroes and the blood of martyrs. The diplomacy of great powers has often exhausted its devices upon more trivial pretexts, and nations have been desolated with wars waged under Caesars and Napoleons for the subjugation of provinces of narrower bounds and inferior fertility.

But there was a profound conviction, a premonition, among thoughtful men, that vastly more was involved; that further postponement of the duel between the antagonistic forces in our political system was impossible; that the existence of the Union, the perpetuity of free institutions, and the success of the experiment of self-government depended upon the issue.

The statesmen of the South, long accustomed to supremacy, had beheld with angry apprehension the menacing increase of the North in wealth and population; the irresistible tendency

of emigration to the intermontane regions of the West and the Northwest, already dedicated to freedom. With prophetic vision they foresaw the admission of free States that would make the South a minority in the Senate, as it was already in the House, and hasten the destruction of the system of servile labor, upon which they wrongly believed their prosperity to depend.

The conscience of the North apparently became dormant upon the subject of the immorality of slavery, when, ceasing to be profitable, it disappeared, by the operation of natural laws, from the valleys of the Merrimac, the Connecticut, and the Hudson. It seemed to have been lulled into an eternal sleep by the anodyne of the Missouri Compromise; but it was roused into renewed activity when the repeal of that ordinance, supplemented by the Dred Scott decision, disclosed the intentions of the Southern leaders to maintain their ascendancy by the extension of slavery over all the Territories of the Republic, a policy whose success threatened their political supremacy and their industrial independence.

Events have shown that the magnitude and significance of the Kansas episode were not exaggerated. It was the prelude to a martial symphony, the preface to a volume whose *finis* was not written until the downfall of slavery was recorded.

It would be a congenial task, but the present scope and purpose neither require nor permit a detailed narrative of the tumultuous interval from the organization of the Territory to the admission of the State. Its history has been written by its partisans. Its actors have been portrayed by their foes or their worshippers. The contests waged by Atchison and Stringfellow against the Abolitionists, and by Brown and Montgomery against "the border ruffians"; the battles and

murders and sudden deaths; the burning of houses and sacking of towns; the proclamations, bulletins, and platforms; the fraudulent elections and the dispersion of Legislatures—form a unique chapter in our annals that waits the impartial chronicler. Neither side was blameless. Each was guilty of wrongs, begotten of the passions of the crisis, that culminated during the Rebellion in border forays, encounters, reprisals, and retaliations, shocking to humanity, whose memory time cannot obliterate nor charity condone.

In the preliminary movement for the occupation of the new Territory, the slavery propagandists had the advantage of proximity. They swarmed across the Missouri border, establishing camps, taking possession of the polling places, securing eligible sites for towns, and, by obstructing the navigation of the river, compelled the emigrants from the North to make a long, circuitous land journey through Iowa and Nebraska. They received reinforcements and contributions of money, stores, and arms from many Southern States, and elected the first Territorial delegate, J. W. Whitfield, who sat from September 20, 1854, till the adjournment of the Thirty-third Congress.

By the census taken in February, 1855, the number of legal voters in the Territory was 2,905; but at the election of members of the first Legislature, four weeks later, 5,447 votes were cast for the Southern candidates and 791 for their opponents, the increment being largely due to the importation of electors from Missouri, who came into the Territory on the day of the election, and, having voted, returned home at night.

By this guilty initiative they obtained on the threshold an immense advantage. They secured absolute control of the political agencies of the Territory. The Legislature, which as-

sembled at Pawnee in July, adopted the slave code of Missouri *en bloc*, supplementing these statutes with original laws making many new offenses against the slave system punishable with death, and compelling every official, candidate, and voter to take an oath to support the fugitive-slave law.

The idea of permanently colonizing Kansas with free labor from the North by systematic migration, and thus determining the question of the institutions of the new empire of the West, originated with Eli Thayer, of Massachusetts, who organized the Emigrant Aid Society in that State in 1854. The example was immediately followed in other parts of the North, and the pioneer colony reached the mouth of the Kansas River July 28th. Among the most prominent leaders of the colonists from New England were Samuel C. Pomeroy, afterwards for twelve years a senator of the United States; and Charles Robinson, an early settler in California, where he had fallen in an armed struggle for what he believed to be the cause of popular rights against corporate injustice and tyranny. By one of those singular and pleasing coincidences which the judgment would reject as an unreal and extravagant climax in a romance or drama, he camped for the night on his overland journey in 1849 in the enchanting valley of the Wakarusa, to which, five years later, he returned to found the city of Lawrence, the intellectual capital of the State, of which he became the first Governor, and where, in the afternoon (1891) of an honorable, useful, and adventurous career, he still survives, his eye not dim nor his natural force abated, the object of affectionate regard and veneration.

The emigrants from the North were almost without exception from civil life, laborers, farmers, mechanics, and artisans, young men of the middle class, reared in toil and inured to pov-

erty, unused to arms and unschooled in war. They were intelligent, devout, and patriotic. They came to plough and plant, to open farms, erect mills, to saw lumber and grind corn, to trade, teach school, build towns, and construct a free State. But one of them—James Henry Lane—had any military experience. He had been a colonel in the Mexican War of an Indiana regiment, and was afterwards a Democratic lieutenant-governor and member of Congress from that State. He had an extraordinary assemblage of mental, moral, and physical traits, and, with even a rudimentary perception of the value of personal character as an element of success in public affairs, would have been a great leader, with an enduring fame. But in arms he was a Captain Bobadil, and in politics a Rittmeister Dugald Dalgetty. He proposed to "settle the vexed question and save Kansas from further outrage" by a battle between one hundred slave-holders, including Senator Atchison, and one hundred Free State men, including himself, to be fought in the presence of twelve United States senators and twelve members of the House of Representatives as umpires!

He was the object of inexplicable idolatry and unspeakable execration. With his partisans, the superlatives of adulation were feeble and meagre; with his foes, the lexicon of infamy contained no epithets sufficiently lurid to express their abhorrence and detestation. They alleged that he never paid a debt nor told the truth, save by accident or on compulsion, and that to reach the goal of his ambition he had no convictions he would not sell, made no promise he would not break, and had no friend he would not betray.

A lean, haggard, and sinewy figure, with a Mephistophelian leer upon his shaven visage, his movements were alert and restless, like one at bay and apprehensive of detection. Professing

religion, he was never even accused of hypocrisy, for his followers knew that he partook of the sacrament as a political device to secure the support of the Church; and that with the same nonchalant alacrity, had he been running for office in Hindustan, he would have thrown his offspring to the crocodiles of the Ganges, or bowed among the Parsees at the shrine of the sun. His energy was tireless and his activity indefatigable. No night was too dark, no storm too wild, no heat or cold too excessive, no distance too great, to delay his meteoric pilgrimages, with dilapidated garb and equipage, across the trackless prairies from convention to convention.

His oratory was voluble and incessant, without logic, learning, rhetoric, or grace; but the multitudes to whom he perpetually appealed hung upon his hoarse and harsh harangues with the rapture of devotees upon the oracular rhapsodies of a prophet, and responded to his apostrophes with frenzied enthusiasm.

He gained the prize which he sought with such fevered ambition; but, after many stormy and tempestuous years, Nemesis, inevitable in such careers, demanded retribution. He presumed too far upon the toleration of a constituency which had honored him so long and had forgiven him so much. He transcended the limitations which the greatest cannot pass. He apostatized once too often; and in his second term in the Senate, to avoid impending exposure, after a tragic interval of despair, he died by his own hand, surviving ten days after the bullet had passed through his brain.

The Northern press, alive to the importance of the struggle, united in an appeal to public opinion, such as had never before been formulated, and despatched to the Territory a corps of correspondents of unsurpassed ability and passionate devo-

tion to liberty. Foremost among these apostles were William A. Phillips, who, after long and distinguished service in the Army and in Congress, lives in literary retirement upon a magnificent estate near the prosperous city of Salina, which he founded; Albert Dean Richardson, whose assassination in New York in 1869 prematurely closed a brilliant career; and James Redpath, subsequently editor of the *North American Review*. Their contributions reached eager readers in every State, and were reprinted beyond the seas, chronicling every incident, delineating every prominent man, arousing indignation by the recitation of the wrongs they denounced, and exciting the imagination with descriptions of the loveliness of the land, rivalling Milton's portraiture of the Garden of Eden. No time was ever so minutely and so indelibly photographed upon the public retina. The name of no State was ever on so many friendly and so many hostile tongues. It was pronounced in every political speech, and inserted in every party platform. No region was ever so advertised, and the impression then produced has never passed away.

The journalists were reinforced by the poets, artists, novelists, and orators of an age distinguished for genius, learning, and inspiration. Lincoln, Douglas, Seward, and Sumner delivered their most memorable speeches upon the theme. Phillips and Beecher, then at the meridian of their powers, appealed to the passions and the conscience of the Nation by unrivalled eloquence and invective. Prizes were offered for lyrics, that were obtained, so profound was the impulse, by obscure and unknown competitors. Lowell, Bryant, Holmes, Longfellow, and Emerson lent the magic of their verse. Whittier was the laureate of the era. His "Burial of Barbour" and "Marais du Cygne" seemed like a prophet's cry for vengeance to the immi-

grants, who marched to the inspiring strains of "Suona la Tromba," or chanted, to the measure of "Auld Lang-Syne,"

"We cross the prairies as of old
 Our fathers crossed the sea."

The contagion spread to foreign lands, and alien torches were lighted at the flame. Walter Savage Landor wrote an ode to free Kansas. Lady Byron collected money, which she sent to the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," for the relief of the sufferers in Kansas. Volunteers from Italy, France, and Germany, revolutionists and exiles, served in the desultory war, many of whom afterwards fought with distinction in the armies of the Union. It was the romance of history. The indescribable agitation which always attends the introduction of a great moral question into politics pervaded the souls of men, transforming the commonplace into the ideal, and inaugurating a heroic epoch. The raptures that swelled the hearts of the pioneers yet thrill and vibrate in the blood of their posterity, like the chords of a smitten harp when the player has departed.

The Free State settlers, being powerless to overcome or reverse the political action of their adversaries, adopted the policy of ignoring it altogether. They resolved to endeavor to change the Territory into a State without the formality of an enabling act of Congress. Their competence to do this was denied, on the ground that it was in opposition to the regularly organized political authorities; but they chose delegates to a convention, which met at Topeka, and framed a Constitution that was adopted in December, 1855, by 1,731 for to 46 against, its friends only participating in the election.

A governor and other State officers and a delegate in Congress were chosen in January. The national House of Repre-

sentatives, July 3, 1856, passed a bill for the admission of the State under this Constitution, but it was rejected in the Senate.

Acting, however, upon the theory that the State existed, the Legislature chosen under the Topeka Constitution assembled July 4, 1856, but was dispersed by United States troops commanded by Colonel Sumner on the order of President Pierce, who denounced the movement as an insurrection requiring the forcible interposition of national authority. Further attempts to organize were thwarted by the arrest of the leaders for usurpation of office and misprision of treason.

Immigration from the North increased, and under the assurance of Governor Walker that the election should be honest and peaceable, the two parties had the first actual test of their relative strength October, 1857, when the Free State electors chose thirty three out of fifty two members of the Legislature. For delegate in Congress 3,799 votes were cast for Epaphroditus Ransom, who had been Governor of Michigan, 1848-49, and 7,888 for Marcus J. Parrott, an ambitious and popular member of the Leavenworth bar.

Born in South Carolina, of Huguenot ancestry, Parrott was at an early age domiciled in Ohio, whither his family had removed to escape the contaminating influences of slavery. He was graduated at Yale, and trained to the law. He came to the Territory two years before, at the age of twenty-six, politically in sympathy with the party in power, and expecting to be the recipient of its favors. Imbued with a passion for liberty, he revolted at the methods pursued by its foes, and espoused the cause of freedom with the ardor of a generous and impulsive nature. Reared in affluence, and of easy fortune, he was familiar with the ways of the world, and united to the bearing of a courtier a captivating suavity of address, which

propitiated all sorts and conditions of men. He was like a thread of gold shot through the rough woof of the frontier. Though not of heroic stature, his dark, vivacious countenance, the rich melody of his voice, and his impressive elocution, gave him great power as an orator. He possessed the fatal gift of fluency, but, wanting depth and sincerity, seemed like an actor seeking applause, rather than a leader striving to direct, or a statesman endeavoring to convince the understanding of his followers. His service in Congress demanded the indulgent judgment of his constituents, and failing of an election to the Senate when the State was admitted, he yielded to the allurements of appetite, squandered two fortunes in travel and pleasure, and the splendid light of his prophetic morning sank lower and lower until it was quenched in the outer darkness of gloom and desolation.

The leaders of the Pro-slavery forces from this time practically abandoned their aggressive efforts, admitting that they had been overcome by the superior resources of the North; but the so-called "bogus Legislature," before its expiration, called another convention, which sat at Lecompton, and adopted the Constitution known in history by that name. It recognized the existence of slavery in the Territory, forbade the enactment of emancipation laws, and prohibited amendments before 1864. Knowing its fate if submitted to the people, it provided that only the clause relating to slavery should be voted upon, but that the instrument itself should be established by act of Congress admitting the State. The slavery clause was adopted by 6,256 to 567, the Free State men refraining from voting; but as soon as the new Legislature met, an act was passed submitting the entire Constitution to the pop-

ular vote, January 4, 1858, when it was rejected by 10,256 to 162, the Pro-slavery men not appearing at the polls.

The debate was then transferred to Congress, and the effort to admit the State under the Leecompton Constitution failed, although the President urged it, and its friends were in a majority in both houses. The tempting bribe of the English Bill, which was offered as a compromise, was rejected by the people in August by 11,088 to 1,788, and thus the curtain fell on Leecompton.

The abortive series of constitutions was enlarged by the formation of the fifth at Leavenworth, which was also ratified by the people, but rejected by Congress on the ground that the population was insufficient. The Territorial existence of Kansas closed with the adoption, October 4, 1859, by a vote of 10,421 to 5,530, of the Wyandotte Constitution, under which, the Southern senators having departed, Kansas was admitted into the Union, January 29, 1861.

The long procession of Governors and acting Governors sent to rule over the Territory vanished away like the show of eight kings, the last having a glass in his hand, Banquo's ghost following, in the witches' cavern in "Macbeth"—Reeder, Shannon, Geary, Stanton, Walker, Denver, Medary, and Beebe—"come like shadows, so depart!"

It is a strange illustration of Anglo-Saxon pride of race, and of its haughty assumption of superiority, that in a State which apotheosized John Brown of Osawatonic, and gave a new definition to the rights of man, suffrage was confined to "white male citizens." But the people of Kansas were too brave and strong to be long unjust. The first colored man regularly enlisted as a soldier was sworn and mustered at Fort Leavenworth. The first colored regiment was raised in Kansas, and

the first engagement in which negroes fought was under the command of a Kansas officer, October 26, 1862. The citizen longest in office in the State—for nearly thirty years—was colored, and born a slave.

The admission of the State and the outbreak of the Rebellion were coincident, and, as might have been predicted from their martial gestation, the people devoted themselves with unabated zeal to the maintenance of the Union. Being outside the field of regular military operations, inaccessible by railroads, exposed to guerrilla incursions from Missouri and to Indian raids from the south and west, the campaign of defense was continuous, and for four years the entire population was under arms. Immigration ceased. By the census of June, 1860, the number of inhabitants was 143,463; at the close of the war it had declined to 140,179. Fields lay fallow, and the fire of the forges expired. Towns were deserted, and homesteads abandoned. The State sent more soldiers to battle than it had voters when the war began. Under all calls, its quota was 12,931; it furnished 20,151, without bounty or conscription. Nineteen regiments, five companies, and three batteries participated in 127 engagements, of which seven were on her own soil. From Wilson Creek to the Gulf every great field in the Southwest was illustrated by their valor and consecrated by their blood. Her proportion of mortality in the field was the largest among the States, exceeding 61 in each 1,000 enlistments, Vermont following with 58, and Massachusetts with nearly 48. Provost-Marshal General Fry, in his final roster of the Union armies, in which all are alike entitled to honor, because all alike did their duty, wrote this certificate of precedence in glory:

"Kansas shows the highest battle mortality of the table. The same singularly martial disposition which induced about one-half of the able-bodied men of the State to enter the Army without bounty may be supposed to have increased their exposure to the casualties of battle after they were in the service."

With the close of the war the first decennium ended, and the disbanded veterans returned under the flag they had redeemed to the State they had made free. Attracted by homesteads upon the public domain, by just and liberal exemption laws, and by the companionship of the brave, those heroes were reinforced by a vast host of their comrades, representing every arm of the military and naval service from all the States of the Union. Not less than 30 per cent of its electors have fought in the Union armies, and the present commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Timothy McCarthy, witnessed the defense of Sumter and the surrender at Appomattox.

Population increased from 8,601 in 1855 to 140,179 in 1865, 528,349 in 1875; 1,268,562 in 1885, and 1,427,096 in 1890. In a community so rapidly assembled the homogeneity of its elements is extraordinary. Kansas is distinctly the American State. Less than 10 per cent of its inhabitants are of foreign birth, principally English, Germans, and Scandinavians; and less than 4 per cent of African descent. The State is often called the child of the Puritans, but, contrary to the popular impression, the immigration from New England was comparatively trivial in numbers, much the larger contributions having been derived from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Pennsylvania, New York, and Kentucky. It is the ideas of the Pilgrims, and not their descendants, that have had dominion in the young commonwealth, which resembles primitive Massachusetts before its middle classes had disappeared and its

society become stratified into the superfluously rich and the hopelessly poor.

Within these pastoral boundaries there are no millionaires nor any paupers, except such as have been deprived by age, disease, and calamity of the ability to labor. No great fortunes have been brought to the State, and none have been accumulated by commerce, manufactures, or speculation. No sumptuous mansions nor glittering equipages nor ostentatious display exasperate or allure. Legislation protects wages and cabins no less than bonds and palaces, and the free school, the jury, and impartial suffrage have resulted in the establishment of justice, liberty, fraternity, and equality as the foundations of the State.

Politically, as might have been predicted, the Republican party, whose birth is indissolubly associated with the efforts to dedicate Kansas to freedom, continued supreme for thirty years. During that period the State had but one Governor and one member of Congress of another faith, and there have been few Legislatures in which the membership of the opposition has risen as high as 20 per cent. This supremacy has not been favorable to national leadership, both parties having reserved their allegiance and their favors for more doubtful constituencies.

An equilibrium which compels the presentation of strong and unexceptionable candidates and the practice of honesty and economy in administration is better than a disproportionate majority which makes the contest end with a nomination. When one party has nothing to hope and the other nothing to fear, degradation and decay are inevitable. Intrigue supplants merit; the sense of responsibility disappears; manipulation of primaries, caucuses, and conventions displaces the conflict and

collision of opinion and debate. Paltry ambitions become respectable. Little men aspire to great places, and distinguished careers are impossible.

In addition to those elsewhere mentioned, others who have been prominent in State and national affairs are Martin P. Conway, the first representative in Congress, a native of Maryland, a diminutive, fair haired, blue-eyed enthusiast, with the bulging brow and retiring chin of Swinburne, an erratic political dreamer, whose reveries ended at Saint Elizabeth's; Generals James G. Blunt, Robert B. Mitchell, George W. Deitzler, Charles W. Blair, Albert L. Lee, and Powell Clayton, military leaders, and eminent also in civil life; Edmund G. Ross, the successor of Lane in the Senate, who forfeited the confidence of his constituents by voting against the impeachment of President Johnson, and was subsequently appointed by President Cleveland Governor of New Mexico; Thomas A. Osborn, who, after serving as Governor (1873-77), had a remarkably successful diplomatic career as United States minister to Chile and Brazil; John P. St. John, twice Governor, prominently identified with the cause of prohibition, and the candidate of its advocates for the Presidency in 1884; John A. Martin, a distinguished soldier, editor of a leading journal, Governor 1884-88, in whose administration the municipal organization of the State was completed; Preston B. Plumb, senator from 1877 until his untimely death, December 20, 1891; and Bishop W. Perkins, his successor by appointment, after several terms upon the bench, and eight years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives; Thomas Ryan, ten years member of Congress, and now representing the United States as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Mexico.

Philosophers and historians recognize the influence of early settlers upon the character and destinies of a community. Original impulses are long continued, like the characteristics and propensities which the mother bestows upon her unborn child. The constant vicissitudes of climate, of fortune, of history, together with the fluctuations of politics and business, have engendered in Kansas hitherto perpetual agitation, not always favorable to happiness, but which has stimulated activity, kept the popular pulse feverish, and begotten a mental condition exalted above the level monotony of life. Every one is on the *qui vive*, alert, vigilant, like a sentinel at an outpost. Existence has the excitement of a game of chance, of a revolution, of a battle whose event is doubtful. The unprecedented environment has produced a temperament volatile and mercurial, marked by uncalculating ardor, enterprise, intrepidity and insatiable hunger for innovation, out of which has grown a society that has been alternately the reproach and the marvel of mankind.

For a generation Kansas has been the testing-ground for every experiment in morals, politics, and social life. Doubt of all existing institutions has been respectable. Nothing has been venerable or revered merely because it exists or has endured. Prohibition, female suffrage, fiat money, free silver, every incoherent and fantastic dream of social improvement and reform, every economic delusion that has bewildered the foggy brains of fanatics, every political fallacy nurtured by misfortune, poverty, and failure, rejected elsewhere, has here found tolerance and advocacy. The enthusiasm of youth, the conservatism of age, have alike yielded to the contagion, making the history of the State a melodramatic series of cataclysms, in which tragedy and comedy have contended for the mastery.

and the convulsions of Nature have been emulated by the catastrophes of society. There has been neither peace, tranquillity, nor repose. The farmer can never foretell his harvest, nor the merchant his gains, nor the politician his supremacy. Something startling has always happened, or has been constantly anticipated. The idol of to-day is execrated to-morrow. Seasons of phenomenal drought, when the sky was brass and the earth iron, have been followed by periods of indescribable fecundity, in which the husbandman has been embarrassed by abundance, whose value has been diminished by its excess. Cyclones, blizzards, and grasshoppers have been so identified with the State in public estimation as to be described by its name, while some of the *bonheurs* of its politics have aroused the inextinguishable laughter, and others have excited the commiseration and condemnation, of mankind.

But as, in spite of its anomalies and the obstacles of Nature, the growth of the State in wealth and numbers has been unprecedented, and its condition is one of stable and permanent prosperity; so, notwithstanding the vagaries and eccentricities into which by the appeals of reformers and the pressure of misfortune they have sometimes been betrayed, the great body of the people are patriotic, conservative, and intelligent to a degree not surpassed elsewhere, and seldom equalled among the children of men.

The social emancipation of woman is complete. The only limitation upon her political equality with man is in the right of suffrage, which is confined to municipal and school district elections. Women are exempt from jury duty, from military service, and from work upon the highways; but, whether married or single, they can practice the professions, engage in mercantile business, follow any industry or occupation, and pursue

any calling, upon the same conditions as men. The distinction of sex is recognized only in its natural sense and use. The property, real and personal, of a single woman remains her own after marriage, unless voluntarily alienated. She can sue and be sued in her own name, and her estate is not liable for her husband's debts, nor can the homestead be sold or encumbered without her consent. When the marriage is ended by death, the survivor is entitled to a moiety of the joint and several estate, with the remainder to the children. Agitation for full suffrage is active, and will undoubtedly ultimately prevail.

The first bonds voted in the State were for school-houses, and the first tax levied in every community, the largest tax, and the tax most cheerfully paid, is the school tax. For the education of her children, Kansas has already spent the enormous total of \$40,000,000, nearly one-half the entire cost of State and municipal government. Equal facilities are afforded to whites and blacks. More than \$21,000,000 are invested in school-houses, State buildings, lands, and other property for educational purposes. The average school year is twenty-seven weeks, supported by State, district, and county taxation, amounting in 1890 to \$5,696,659.69.

This magnificent educational system wears the triple crown of the State University at Lawrence, with a faculty of thirty-six members and 474 students; the State Normal School at Emporia, with a faculty of eighteen members and 1,200 students; and the Agricultural College at Manhattan, with an endowment from public lands of \$501,426.33, \$15,000 annually from the Government as an experiment station, an annual income of \$65,000, a faculty of eighteen members, and 575 students.

Public education is supplemented by private and denominational schools, with an average yearly attendance of 65,000, and buildings and endowments valued at two and a quarter million dollars. Such efforts and sacrifices have already produced perceptible and gratifying results. The illiterate fraction in Kansas is the smallest save one in the Nation. The general standard of intelligence is unusually high. The State publications and reports are models for imitation, notably the Biennial of the State Board of Agriculture, speaking whereof the London *Times*, in 1880, said: "The resources the book describes fill the English mind with astonishment and envy."

The curse and bane of frontier life is drunkenness. The literature of the mining camp, the cross roads, and the cattle-ranch reeks with whisky. In every new settlement the saloon precedes the school house and the church; is the rendezvous of ruffians, the harbor of criminals, the recruiting station of the murderer, the gambler, the harlot, and the thief; a perpetual menace to social order, intelligence, and morality, above whose portal should be inscribed the legend engraved on the lintel of the infernal gates: "*Lasciate ogni speranza voi ch' entrate.*"

Agitation against the evils of intemperance was contemporary with the political organization of the Territory. The founders of Topeka and Lawrence forbade the sale of intoxicating beverages within their corporate limits, and the debate continued until 1881, when a constitutional amendment was adopted forever prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes. This was enforced by appropriate legislation, and the validity of the amendment and of the statutes was sustained by the Supreme Courts of the State and of the Nation. After futile and costly resistance, the dramshop traffic has

disappeared from the State. Surreptitious sales continue; club drinking and "joints" are not unknown; but the saloon has vanished, and the law has been better enforced than similar legislation elsewhere. In the larger towns prohibition is not so strictly observed as in the rural districts, where public opinion is more rigid; but in all localities the beneficent results are apparent in the diminution of crime, poverty, and disorder. Banned by law, the occupation is stigmatized, and becomes disreputable. If the offender avoids punishment, he does not escape contempt. Drinking being in secret, temptation is diminished, the weak are protected from their infirmities, and the young from their appetites and passions.

Much of the prominence of Kansas is due to the novel and startling methods employed by its journalists to invite public attention to the opportunities found here for success and happiness. They have been the persistent and conspicuous advocates of immigration, railroads, schools, churches, manufactories, and improvements.

The first printing-press was brought by Jotham Meeker in 1833 to Shawnee Mission, a station of the Methodist Church, established in what is now Johnson County, in 1829. Upon its primitive platen were printed religious books, pamphlets, tracts, and a newspaper in the Indian tongue, in a region then more remote and inaccessible than Alaska now. This venerable relic, after nearly sixty years of service, is still on duty in one of the southern counties of the State. The first newspaper in the Territory was the Leavenworth *Herald*, printed in the open air under an elm-tree on the levee of the city of that name. It has been succeeded by a swarming multitude of original, ingenious, and brilliant ventures in journalism, magazines, reviews, periodicals, papers, daily and weekly, varying in excellence,

but united in vociferous and persistent affirmation that Kansas is the best State in the most glorious country on the finest planet in the solar system; that its soil is the richest, its climate the most salubrious, its men the most enterprising, its women the most beautiful, its children the most docile, its horses the fastest, its cattle the largest, its sheep the woolliest, its hogs the fattest, its grasshoppers the most beneficent, its blizzards the warmest, its cyclones the mildest, its droughts the wettest, its hot winds the coldest, its past the most glorious, its present the most prophetic, its destiny the most sublime.

They remind the bewildered reader of the feat of the Hindoo necromancer who throws a ball of cord into the air, catches the depending end, and, climbing hand over hand, disappears in the blue abyss of the sky. Their versatile and extravagant spirit appears in the extraordinary nomenclature which serves to attract the attention of the searcher after truth. Among them may be found *The Thomas (County) Cat*, *The Wamo Ruller*, *The Paralyzer*, *The Cherokee Cyclone*, *The Cimarron Soul House*, *The Lake City Prairie Dog*, *The Baroo*, *The Lawtjer*, *The Prairie Owl*, *The Kinoid Knuckle*, *The Bundle of Sticks*, *The Cap Sheaf*, *The Dodge City Cowboy*.

The newspapers have been the advance agents of civilization, often the voice of one crying in the wilderness. They have reversed the ancient order, and instead of waiting for subscribers and advertisers, they have been the sappers and miners of the assault upon the solitudes of Nature. The moral tone of the press is exceptionally pure, its intellectual plane unusually elevated; it is generous in the treatment of public men, just in the criticism of opponents, broad and liberal in views of State and national policy and administration.

The hunger and thirst for knowledge, which has created and in turn is stimulated by the press, has a wider scope, and the people are omnivorous readers of metropolitan journals and leading periodicals. With the church and the school have been established great numbers of public and private libraries, so that religion, learning, and literature have become the moving forces of every community. The State Library and the collection of the State Historical Society at the capital, and the public libraries in other localities, are richer and larger than those of many of the older States.

The venerable jest, that there is no Sunday west of the Mississippi, is not entirely jocular. It has a suggestion of truth. The same influence which makes men indifferent to the past renders them careless also of the future. Ambition and cupidity are the ruling passions in new communities, and the chief end of man is not to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, but to make money and run for office. The concern for this world is much greater than for that which is to come. Religion is conservative. It stands upon authority, and demands obedience. The pioneer is radical, impatient of dogmas, and a "kicker" by instinct. He detests bigots, hypocrites, and fossils. His mind being inquisitive, its tendency is toward materialism and rationalism rather than faith. He is not disturbed by anathemas, and with composure hears himself described as an agnostic; but he is reverent, tolerant, and devout. He recognizes religion as one of the great beneficent forces of the universe, an indispensable premise in the syllogism of human destiny, without which society would be a sophism, and the soul of man a fallacy, Kansas attests her convictions by 4,000 church organizations, representing every denomination, with an aggregate member-

ship of nearly 317,000, having 2,339 houses of worship, and property valued at about \$0,000,000.

The first railroad track in Kansas was laid March 20, 1860, on the Elwood and Marysville line, opposite the city of St. Joseph. On the 3d of April the "Albany," a pioneer locomotive, a veteran which had been used from Boston to the Missouri as railroads advanced across the continent, was ferried over the river, and drew the first train on the first section of the Pacific Railroad. Construction ceased with the breaking out of the war, but was resumed with great vigor at its close. Stimulated by liberal donations from cities, towns, and counties, railroad building became a mania, with disastrous results. In addition to the great trunk lines through populous and productive regions, subsidiary branches, unnecessary auxiliaries, and superfluous feeders were built, without earning capacity, burdening communities with irretrievable self imposed debts, absorbing the revenues of those which were remunerative, giving poor service, and rapidly deteriorating from neglect and poverty.

In August, 1863, the grading of the Kansas Pacific Railroad was begun at the State line between Kansas and Missouri, in the dense forest of cottonwoods that then shaded the site of what has since become a populous suburb of one of the great cities of the West. The contractor erected at the initial point a pillar, inscribing on the face towards the east "Slavery," and on the face towards the west "Freedom." This line was completed to Lawrence in November, 1864, but the first forty miles were not accepted by the Government until October, 1865.

There are now 109 railroad companies in the State, many of them consolidated, with more than 10,000 miles of track, assessed at \$50,865,825.34. Of the 106 counties, all but five

are traversed by railroads, and the traveler entering a Santa Fe train at Atchison can, within a week, in a Pullman car, reach the city of Mexico over almost the identical route followed by Coronado in his expedition three hundred and fifty years ago.

This great corporation, chartered in 1857 and permanently organized in 1864, was not operated until 1869, and then only as a local line from Topeka to the Osage coal-fields, thirty miles southwest. Its land grant was considered of doubtful value, and capitalists looked askant upon the project of constructing a railroad along the unpeopled sands of the Arkansas Valley, which were still the grazing-ground of the buffalo and the hunting-ground of the savage. The site of Wichita, alliteratively described by M. M. Murdock, its prophet and herald, as "the peerless princess of the plains," with its palaces, temples, marts, electric lights, and railways, water-works, elevators, flouring-mills, and packing-houses, had not been traced among the whispering reeds and scattered cottonwoods of the meadows bordering on the American Nile. The sub-irrigation which makes the corn and wheat crops independent of the rainfall, had not been discovered. The fertility of the loose and shifting soil was not suspected, and the vast region seemed doomed to perpetual solitude and sterility.

Some bolder spirits, gifted with the prescience essential to great designs, foresaw the future, and sent the surveyors and graders, the advance guard of civilization, into the desert. Contemporaneously with construction, they advertised the lands and the State, sending agents to all parts of the Union and to every country in Europe, penetrating Russia to the Crimea; inviting immigration; selling farms at low rates on long time; extending payments and giving aid in time of dis-

tress; exhibiting the productions of orchards and farms; bringing harvest home excursions from other States; distributing maps, pamphlets, and statistical tables as numerous and as chromatic colored as autumnal leaves. Similar methods, although not as extensive nor as liberal, were employed by the managers of the Missouri Pacific, Fort Scott and Gulf, the Union Pacific, and other trunk lines, under the stimulus of which lands rapidly advanced in value, and much that was sold at from three to five dollars is now worth as high as one hundred dollars per acre.

The farms of Kansas were not made to order. They waited for the plough. There were no forests to fell, no stumps to extract, no rocks to remove, no malaria to combat. These undulating fields are the floors of ancient seas. These limestone ledges underlying the prairies and cropping from the foreheads of the hills are the cemeteries of the marine insect life of the primeval world. The inexhaustible humus is the mould of the decaying herbage of unnumbered centuries. It is only upon calcareous plains in temperate latitudes that agriculture is supreme, and the strong structure and the rich nourishment imparted essential to bulk, endurance, and speed in animals, to grace, beauty, and passion in women, and in man to stature, courage, health, and longevity.

Here are valleys in which a furrow can be ploughed a hundred miles long; where all the labor of breaking, planting, cultivating, mowing, reaping, and harvesting is performed by horses, engines, and machinery, so that farming has become a sedentary occupation. The lister has supplanted the hoe; the cradle, the scythe, and the sickle are as unknown to Western agriculture as the catapult and culverin to modern warfare. The well-sweep and windlass have been supplanted by the

windmills, whose vivacious disks disturb the monotony of the sky. But for these labor-saving inventions the pioneers would still linger in the valleys of the Ohio and Sangamon, and the subjugation of the desert would have been indefinitely postponed.

The ozone of the air, its dryness, and the elevation of the land produce nervous exaltation, which creates enthusiasm, movement, energy, push, vigor, and "go"; by whose operation men are transformed into "rustlers" and "boomers," inventors of new methods to overcome the hostility of Nature, and coiners of novel phrases to express their defiance of destiny. Platitudes are unknown, and all epithets are superlative. Imagination predominates; established formulas and maxims are disregarded. Upon the rainless and sterile uplands the strata of the earth are pierced for water; and marble, paint, cement, fire-clay, gypsum, coal, and salt are discovered in the descent. If chinch-bugs and noxious insects attack his crops, parasites and epidemics are imported for their destruction. Foiled and thwarted by the baffling clouds, the undaunted husbandman bombards the invisible moisture of the firmament with explosive balloons, and effusively welcomes the meteorological juggler who summons with his incantations aqueous spirits from the vasty deep. The faith which removes mountains into the sea animates every citizen, and rejects the impossible with calm disdain.

The present wealth of Kansas, real and personal, reaches the astounding aggregate of nearly seventeen hundred million dollars*—many times more than the valuation of all the States in the Union when the Government was established, after one

*Extra Census Bulletin No. 14, October, 1891.

hundred and fifty years of colonial existence. This enormous accumulation nominally represents a period of forty years, but has actually been created in much less, for life in Kansas from 1854 to 1865 was a bivouac, and the real development of the State did not begin until peace was restored. Twenty years ago half its area was pastured by buffalo, and a considerable part was covered by the reservations of hostile Indians, whose depredations continued until 1880, resulting in more than two hundred deaths, or captivities less merciful than the grave, and the expenditure of millions for the defense of the frontier.

Even as late as 1875, agriculture beyond the Blue was regarded by many as an uncertain and by some as a desperate experiment. Nature appeared to resent the invasion of her solitudes. The horrors of internecine war were followed by a succession of droughts and hot winds, that, in turn, were reinforced by swarms of locusts, which descended from the torrid mesas of New Mexico and the sterile Piedmont of Colorado and Wyoming, obscuring the pitiless sun by their desolating flights, leaving the earth they devastated defiled by their loathsome exuvie, and poisoning the atmosphere with the fœtor of their decay. It was like the incarnation of Nature's secret and evil forces, as if the bacilli and microbes of "the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noonday" had become visible, endowed with wings, malignant intelligence, and insatiable voracity.

That the State survived the infliction of this series of disasters seems incredible. A people less sanguine, buoyant, and resolute, more unschooled in the lessons of adversity, would have succumbed. They would have surrendered unconditionally, and abandoned their parched fields and farms to the coyote and the prairie-dog. But the malevolent energies of the

desert, having been marshalled for this final onset, were repulsed by an indomitable persistence superior to their own, and sullenly withdrew. While envious rivals were jeering, and jealous competitors were flouting, pointing with scorn's slow, unmoving finger at the droughts, grasshoppers, hot winds, crop failures, and other calamities of Kansas, the world was suddenly startled and dazzled by her collective display of horticultural and agricultural products at the Centennial at Philadelphia, which received the highest awards. Since that time there has been no arena in Europe or America in which Kansas has declined competition, and at the New Orleans Exposition, in 1885, she took sixty-five first and second premiums on wheat, corn, flour, sugar, fruit, and cattle, leading all the States in the Union.

This year (1891) the yield of wheat has been 58,550,653 bushels, nearly one-tenth of the entire crop of the country; of oats, 40,000,000 bushels; unfavorable conditions have reduced by one-third the average corn crop of 200,000,000 bushels. These, supplemented with roots, sorghum, broom-corn, millet, hay, rye, barley, garden vegetables, honey, and wine, have enriched the farmers of Kansas with wealth far exceeding the year's yield of the gold and silver mines of the United States. The total aggregate value of all farm products for the years 1889 and 1890 was \$283,740,491, and that of the present biennial, judging by the previous rate of increase, will exceed \$300,000,000.

The courage, sand, and grit of the people, their nervy faith in fortune, the confidence of capitalists in the staple value of Kansas lands and in the industry and integrity of their owners, have marvellous illustration in the fact that during the ten years between 1880 and 1890 a recorded real-estate mortgage

indebtedness was incurred of nearly five hundred million dollars, exclusive of loans upon chattels, State and railroad land contracts, personal liabilities, city, township, and county subsidies for railways and other public objects, aggregating probably two hundred millions more. This feverish period culminated in a delirium of public and private credit known in local history as "the boom of 1887," whose frenzy and disaster have not been exceeded since the bursting of the "Mississippi bubble," or the collapse of the "tulipomania" of the seventeenth century.

The building of superfluous towns, the construction of unnecessary railroads, the organization of counties and the location of county seats; the entry of public lands for the sole purpose of mortgaging the inchoate title at excessive valuations, became established industries. The agents of Eastern companies eagerly competed for the privilege of placing loans upon quarter-sections without a fence or furrow, often far beyond their market value. Professional "boomers," with a retinue of surveyors and cappers and strikers, invaded the State, bought and platted additions, which they sold at exorbitant prices to resident and foreign speculators, victims to the epidemic passion for sudden wealth, whose inexplicable contagion infected the reason of men with its undetected bacteria.

The reaction came like the "next morning" after a night of revelry and debauch. The plunderers disappeared with the ready money of the people, leaving, instead of anticipated wealth, an intolerable burden of maturing indebtedness upon deluded purchasers. Empty railroad trains ran across deserted prairies to vacant towns. Successive droughts and siroccos destroyed the crops in the western half of the State. The laborers, mechanics, and speculators, having erected costly

business blocks that found no tenants, and residences that remained uninhabited, being without further occupation, sought employment elsewhere. The population declined. Pay-day came. The coupon matured. Taxes fell due. Creditors became clamorous. Merchants refused credit, and public and private treasuries were depleted.

These accumulated misfortunes were supplemented in 1890 by an irruption of false teachers, with the instruction that such disasters were the result of vicious legislation, and could be cured by statute; that banks should be destroyed, debts repudiated, property forcibly redistributed, and poverty abolished by act of Congress. It was an exhibition of what Burke described as the "insanity of nations." Conservative, thoughtful, and patriotic men yielded to an uncontrollable impulse of resentment against society. This outburst shocked the public credit, temporarily destroyed the ability of the debtor to borrow or to pay, diminished the value of property, and inflicted an irremediable wound upon the State's good name. But it vanished like one of the ominous and sudden catastrophes of the sky. With the return of prosperity came the restoration of reason. More than half the enormous indebtedness has already been liquidated, and the whole will be honestly and resolutely paid. A Kansas loan is as secure as a Government bond.

The Arabs say that he who drinks of the Nile must always thirst; no other waters can quench or satisfy. So those who have done homage and taken the oath of fealty to Kansas can never be alienated or forsworn. The love of the people for their State is not so much a vague sentiment as an insatiable passion. The anniversary of its admission is observed by the schools as a festival and holiday, with commemorative exercises. Days are set apart in spring, by executive proclamation,

to decorate the hills and roadsides with trees, as a lover adorns his bride with jewels. The defects of climate and the disasters of husbandry are indulgently explained and excused as the foibles of a friend from whom better things may be anticipated hereafter. The wanderers whom caprice or misfortune may temporarily banish are roused by an irresistible solicitation as they remember the bright aspect of its sky, which is like a smile, and the soft touch of its atmosphere, which is like a caress.

The cross which Coronado reared at the verge of his wanderings long since mouldered, and the ashes of the adventurer have slept for ages in their ancestral sepulchre in Spain. He found neither Quivera's phantom towers nor Cibola's gems and gold; but a fairer capital than that he sought to despoil has risen like an exhalation from the solitude he trod, and richer treasure than he craved has rewarded the toilers of an alien race. Upon their effulgent shield shines a star emerging from stormy clouds to the constellation of the Union, and beneath they have written, "*Ad astra per aspera*," an emblem of the past, by whose contemplation they are exalted, the prophecy of that nobler future to which they confidently aspire.