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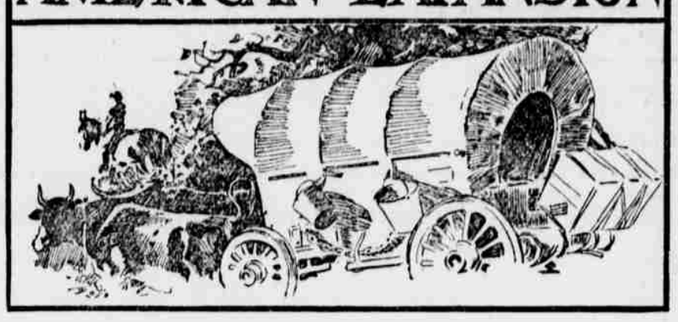
THE ROMANCE OF AMERICAN EXPANSION



ON one of the wall spaces of the National Capitol there is a large painting by Emanuel Leutze which depicts in such spirited fashion a phase of Western settlement that it hardly needs the explanation given on its upper margin in Bishop Berkeley's line:

"Westward the course of empire takes its way."

The official guide who conducts sight-seers through the building invariably explains that the oftener the picture is examined the more there is to see in it. There is undoubted truth in his remark anent this particular picture, "Westward-Ho," for in the immigrant train which the artist has pictured as wending its weary, turbulent way through the passes of snow-tipped mountains toward a fair country to which the leader points encouragingly, is epitomized the spirit which in all ages has urged man to shake off the rule of the fixed, the known, the tried, and to seek his destiny in the undiscovered and the new.

From Asia to Southern Europe, from Europe across troubled waters to the Atlantic coast of a new continent, from thence in successive waves across that continent to the Pacific, many have passed under the spell of the mysterious, the lure of the hidden.

With them, as this picture shows, they have taken along their women, sober, sad-faced, doubting, but following the men whose children they bear in their arms. To all of them the spirit which drives them forth has given some concrete object on which to fix their immediate hopes, the desire for gold, for land, for bread, for religious freedom, for glory, for adventure.

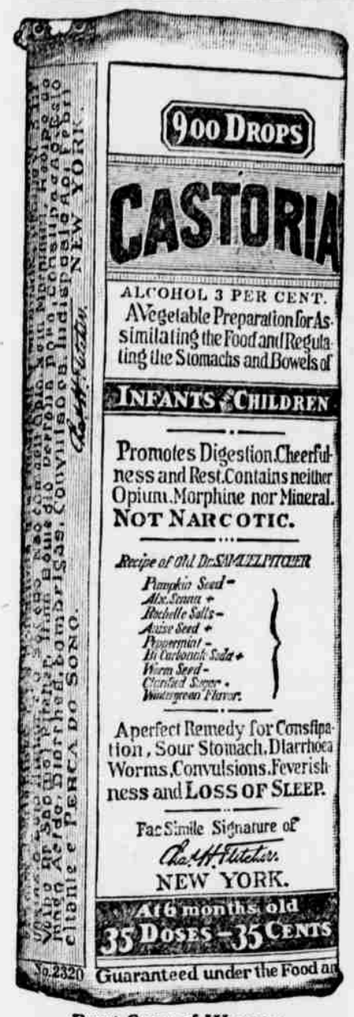
In his latest book, "The Romance of American Expansion," H. Addington Bruce tells how the expression of this instinct has led to the territorial growth of the United States. For each stage of growth in this country he has selected some dominant central figure who has played a determining role in the movement from sea to sea.

Daniel Boone, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston, Thomas Hart Benton, John Charles Fremont, William Henry Seward, William McKinley—these are the eight men whom he has selected from the many who participated in the great events through which this nation has developed. Will any question the wisdom of his choice when the events are considered in relation with each?—Boone and the opening up of the West by means of the Wilderness road, leading men from the coast across the Alleghenies; Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase, by which men were given land on which to settle; Jackson, devoid of constitutional scruples, wresting from Spain the Florida coast, which the nation needed; Sam Houston, lifting himself above the ignominy of the epithet, "Drunken Sam," to the presidency of a Texan republic, which when it became a part of the United States made him Senator and Governor and placed his statue in statuary hall of the National Capitol as one of two men whom it is permitted to honor in such wise; William Henry Seward, forcing a people to accept reluctantly his folly, Alaska; McKinley, President when the nation reached across the sea and possessed itself of new islands.

In his perface the author, writing of the true nature of the American advance, says: "It was no fortuitous development. Its roots struck back to the early colonization of America, and it was the logical result of the genesis, on a largely unoccupied continent, of an exceptional, virile, progressive and ambitious nation. The instincts and needs of that nation irresistibly impelled it to territorial enlargement. It did not always expand without conflict with other nations, yet its record, however sharply criticised, is singularly free from blemish. Even the so-called spoliation of Mexico proves, on close examination, by no means so blameworthy as has generally been believed. From beginning to end there is little to regret and much to admire in the story of American expansion."

"The first migratory movement across the Alleghenies," the book states, following necessarily from economic stress and the genesis of a bold, enterprising and restless people, was certain soon or late to give rise to a struggle for mastery of the Mississippi, the great mid-continent waterway. In good season a peaceful solution for the problem thus created was found in the Louisiana Purchase, transferring from the French to the American nation not only the Mississippi, but also the enormous area to the westward watered by the Mississippi and its affluent. Then, and equally of necessity, was presented the question of acquiring the one-piece territory to the east of the Mississippi still held by alien hands, and constituting a serious menace to the welfare of the United States. This again was happily settled by the Florida purchase, though only after the use of intimidative methods. Texas came next, an acquisition not in itself necessarily inevitable, but rendered so by the stupendous folly of the Mexican authorities in permitting the colonization of that outlying and practically unoccupied province by the representatives of an adjacent nation stronger than theirs and differing from theirs in race, institutions and points of view.

Meanwhile, and likewise under the secondary stimulus of sectional interests, agitation had begun looking to anticipation of the inevitable by carrying the westward movement still further forward—across the Rocky mountains and down to the shores of the Pacific. As yet the nation had not fully entered into its own, and vast expanses of internal territory were still to be occupied.



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Touch and Go.

"Good morning, sir," said the tall man in the suit of faded black, opening his valise. "My name is Glasspy. I am the inventor of a little device for——"

"I am glad to meet you, Mr. Glasspy," interrupted the man in the doorway. "My name is Washabaugh. I have the sole right in this county to take subscriptions for a new and copiously illustrated edition of the works of——"

"Good day, sir."

"Good day."—Chicago Tribune.

Discordant Note.

"Mr. Meekun, don't you think a woman should receive a man's pay when she does a man's work?"

"Why—er—look at the other side of the question a moment, will you? Think how many men are doing women's work and not getting a cent for it!"

One Distinction.

Stranger (at Crown Point)—What's the difference between this sort of thing, in principle, and a horse race?

Automobile Enthusiast—Great Scott, look at the possibilities, man! You can get a million more thrills out of it.—Chicago Tribune.

Dressed as Scholars.

At the wedding lately of the head master of Eastbourne College, England, the three pages in the bridal procession were garbed as scholars in black satin knee breeches, buckled shoes, scarlet silk gowns, with white shirt fronts. Each carried a mortarboard hat and a scarlet-bound prayer book.

Early Showed Greatness.

Andrew Jackson was a marvel of precocity. He carried a flintlock musket, as a soldier of the revolutionary army, at the age of 14. At 23 he was appointed by Washington district attorney of Tennessee. He was a United States Senator at 30. He did not reach the presidency until he was 62. —Sunday Magazine.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Due to Score Next Time.

"You refuse me, do you, proud girl?" he howled. "Well, you're not doing anything original! This is the third time I've been turned down!"

"So I'm the third sacker, am I?" merrily responded the girl, thrusting her tongue in her cheek in a well meant but only partially successful effort to look like Mr. Steinfeldt.

History Rewritten.

With much reluctance King George III. had decided to let his American colonies go.

"Mark my words, though," he said, "they'll be governed some day by a monarch ten times as absolute and despotic as I am!"

If any doubt exists that his Britannic majesty had the spirit of prophecy upon him, look at Mr. Aldrich.—Chicago Tribune.

A Studied Explanation.

"Will you be able to explain your attitude on the tariff?"

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "I'll have my explanation ready when the time comes. But I'll wait till my constituents are interested in other things and will carefully make it a little hard to understand."—Washington Star.

Getting Back.

"Captain, what time does the boat start?"

"It starts, madam, when I give the word."

"Then I've always had the wrong idea. I thought it started when the engineer pulled a lever, or did something. Thank you ever so much."—Chicago Tribune.

The Old Adam.

"I wonder why three-fourths of the stenographers in business offices are women?" "I guess it is because men like to feel that there is at least one class of women whom they can dictate through many a volume." "Barchester Towers," and "Dr. Thorne" are the favorites among publishers for new editions of Trollope's works. Some of the other novels are out of print and out of copyright, and first editions are rare and expensive. Still another new edition of "Barchester Towers" and "Dr. Thorne" has been brought out in library size in England.

"From the point of view of pure literature," the best letters in the Carlyle correspondence, says the Spectator, are those written by Miss Welsh. The epistolary form requires aptitude of a very peculiar nature for its successful development, and these aptitudes Carlyle was altogether without. "The qualities which go to the making of an ideal letter," according to the writer, are "lightness of touch, ease of expression, brilliance which is never forced and amiability which is never exaggerated and never forgotten." The fine letter written by Miss Welsh to her aunt just before her marriage contains the following passage: "He possesses all the qualities I deem essential to a husband, a warm true heart to love me, a towering intellect to command me, and a spirit of fire to be the guiding star of my life."

Food Scarce.

"This circular describing the Mount Ingvue says you can sit at the dinner table and see the beautiful mountain peaks," said the man who contemplated going.

"That is true," replied the one who had been; "and that's just about all you can see."—Yonkers Statesman.

Reminiscent.

"How long will eggs keep, anyhow?" said the casual customer at the lunch counter.

"I have met some in my career," answered the dark, gloomy man with the deep, tragic voice who sat next to him, "that I am willing to swear had been kept for not less than two years, by Jupiter!"—Chicago Tribune.

Boyhood of Great Men.—No. XXI.

"Papa," said little Eddie, "I gotta have another pair o' shoes. These is all wore out."

"That makes seven pairs this year!" groaned the unhappy parent.

* * * * * *

This incident took place more than sixty years ago. That boy has become an old man. His name is Edward Payson Weston, and he wears out shoes faster than ever.—Chicago Tribune.

One Thing Beyond Any Power.

Tip knows other places where traveling is of the agony brand. After waiting for nearly four hours in Shannonville, Canada, between Toronto and Montreal, for a "mixed"—17 freight cars and one coach—I asked an impatient clergyman if he had been able to learn when the train would arrive. He eyed me up and down with pity. "Sir," he said, "that is the only thing that the Almighty does not know."—New York Press.

An Old Truth.

Skiggs ran away with Skeggs' wife,
Left no address behind;
But very soon Skiggs envied Skeggs
And had a change of mind.
Skeggs advertised, Skiggs sent her back,
Herein the moral lies:
Skiggs now believes—not so with Skeggs—
It pays to advertise.
—Boston Herald.

Musical.

Yeast—It is said that the cats of Berlin are all registered and wear a tag.

Crimsonbeak—Well, the cats around my house seem to be registered, too, and some of 'em are pretty strong in the upper register.—Yonkers Statesman.

DAISY FLY KILLER

placed anywhere, attracts and kills all flies. Neat, clean, ornamental, convenient, cheap. Lasts all season. Can not spill or tip over, will not soil or injure anything. Guaranteed effective. Of all dealers, or sent prepaid for 20 cents.
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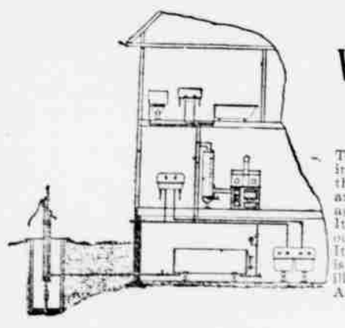
THE OIL THAT PENETRATES



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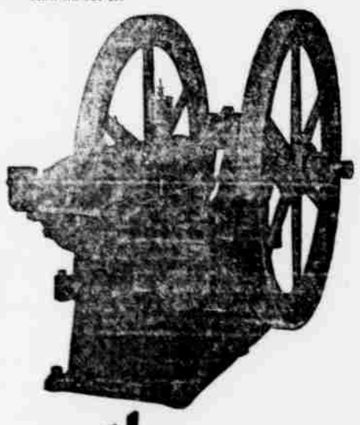

are especially adapted to pumping duty and in fact any duty that requires a strong, reliable power. They are economical, simple and easily understood. It is an engine which anyone, no matter how little he knows about such engines, can operate as successfully as an expert. In short, it is an ideal engine for any kind of work. Send for STOVER Engine Catalog—Free.

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AGENTS EVERYWHERE

LITERARY LITTLEBITS

"Less Than Kin," a novel by Alice Duer Miller, has for its central motive a decidedly amusing situation. The hero, just returned from South America, is welcomed as a prodigal son by a New York family of entire strangers.

Alfred Noyes is looked upon as one of the coming English poets. His "Drake," a work in twelve books, which he calls "An English Epic," will be published next fall. Sometime ago Swinburne wrote to Mr. Noyes, congratulating his "noble, patriotic, historical poem. I congratulate you on the completion of so high and so grand a task." Rudyard Kipling said: "The tale itself held me yesterday evening from one end to the other."

Clement Shorter is responsible for the following story of Trollope: "Sitting in an obscure corner of his club one evening, he heard two men talking about his books, and one of them was actually yawning over Mrs. Proudie and expressed the brutal wish that the author 'would kill that woman off.' Trollope went home dejected and made Mrs. Proudie die. We, who never knew him," continues Mr. Shorter, "but love so much in his writings with a peculiar affection, think that we could not have too much of Mrs. Proudie, and wish that Anthony Trollope had kept her alive

Remedied.

The Maid—Were you ever disappointed in love?

The Man—Only once.

The Maid—And what did you do about it?

The Man—Oh, I got a divorce.

People would be less suspicious of others if they didn't know themselves so well.