

The artist generally paints in his shadows first⁶⁹ then touches his highlights about and forms them. After this he blends and modifies, and finally by retouching and finishing he brings out his principal thought more forcibly. After this manner I will try to present

THE INDUSTRIAL PICTURE.

but will make it suggestive rather than complete.

Shadows.

The Literary Union was organized toward the close of the late civil war, even before men began to see the momentous results that were to follow. The country was in a state of industrial unrest. During the war the farming community had prospered, and withal there was plenty of money in circulation. What kind of money? All of it was legal tender notes of the U.S. Government. These notes were worth less than 40 cents off the dollar. They were legal tender and paid all debts dollar for dollar. This dollar was called a dollar.

The war had taken the young men away from the productive industries of the country, and now hundreds of thousands who had been consumers, and engaged in the destruction of wealth were to become producers. In every part of the country business plants were rapidly organized; ^othough a very large number moved further west. This resulted in the rapid occupation of new territory. At the same time the acreage in the settled portions of the country ~~was~~ ^{was} greatly increased.

With this legal tender money the soldiers who had saved the country from dissolution organized their business plants; and in large part with borrowed capital. In this money they bought lands and stocked western farms; expanded the acreage of productive lands in the settled states; organized factory plants and mills; opened stores and laid in supplies of merchandise.- began business of every description. The building of rail roads went on rapidly stretching into the territories that were being newly settled; and meshing more closely the already settled states. All of these were being

pushed forward on the basis of the legal tender ^{notes} ~~dollar~~, and obligations were drawn dollar for dollar.. In this way a large proportion of the citizens of the country became deeply in debt in the dollars of the legal tender currency. Some men, the percentage was small, had made large sums of money during the war. These, to increase their gains enlarged their business plants, or loaned to those who were beginⁿg anew. It is a notable fact that men go in debt readily in prosperous times.

For a time prices were maintained by prospects of war, and actual war in Europe. But this could not last. With the increased acreage of farm lands the war consumption ceased. The farmer with his obligations to meet found the prices of his products greatly diminished. The manufacturer found the market glutted with his products. The merchant was compelled to do business on a falling market. The money of the nation could not remain promises to pay. Specie payment was resumed.

Then the borrower saw that the dollars he had borrowed worth 40 cents must be paid in dollars worth 100 cents. The only escape from this was bankruptcy. This was ~~the~~ true of the small farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer, and the railroad king. The bonds of the latter were counted dollar for dollar, and the interest must be paid. Revaluation could be had only by payment of the principal, or bankruptcy; and the wages of ~~the~~ employees were pressed upon to make up the sum.

It was in this condition of the ~~the~~ affairs of the people that we came upon the great crisis of the seventies, when stagnation of all the avenues of trade, and ~~the~~ factory and railroad strikes were the order of the day. Thousands of small owners parted with their lands and manufacturers parted with their plants at new and reduced valuations, and were financially ruined. Thousands of owners became wage workers, and more thousands of wage workers had no work. The country was filled from Maine to California with tramps begging for bread.

But the readjustment came; and when the wheels of production and commerce were again moving the wage workers had greatly increased in numbers and the owners had diminished. There had been a notable concentration of the capital of the country. But there were thousands who held on to their possessions with increased debt, struggling on in the hope of better times. Many of these have held on until to day with their debt contracted in war currency still hanging over them like a black cloud which refuses to lift. Some have succeeded while very many have failed.

It was in these times that we began to hear the phrase "the world owes me a living"; and illegitimate means of getting the wherewithall to live rapidly increased. Forms of speculation not needful or helpful to the necessary exchange of commodities assumed importance and engaged the attention of thousands of men. Since that time we have heard more and more of colossal fortunes being amassed, the basis of which was laid

in successful transactions in options, bucket shops, and artificial corners in farm products.

All of these gains come ultimately from the producer.

Coincident with these changes there came, also, immense changes in the forms of production brought about by the invention of labor saving machinery. Farm machinery has diminished the number employed in agriculture without diminishing the product; and has sent the residue of the agriculturists to the city. The mechanic has found his trade taken up by the machine. The small business was ~~continually being~~ swallowed up by the larger; and independent business men were converted into wage workers.

It has been a time of booms, and fictitious prices in western lands. A town west of the Mississippi is dead when the boom is over, and its inhabitants ~~are moved~~
move
~~away~~ away in poverty. These men invested their money in that town. Where is it now? The ring who sold in time has it. These changes form the sum of the opportunities of the far seeing business man to build up immense for-

tunes, and have greatly increased the numbers of the employed. It is almost proverbial that men who amass wealth with great rapidity become hard task masters. Those in their employ generally have no favored situations.

High Lights.

But these are the dark lines of the picture, the shadows that set in bold relief the lights of our civilization. The picture is becoming a veritable Rembrandt, with shadow predominating. This is especially true if examined from the view of the unfortunates in the struggle ~~the struggle~~ ~~the struggle~~ ~~our~~ But there are brighter lights on the canvas. Our legal tender notes were based on the credit of the nation. It was war money intended to carry the suppression of the rebellion to a successful issue; which it did. Rebellion sank in the dust. The national treasury was empty, but with ^{Peace} it rapidly filled again. The country prospered. Specie payment was announced which brought the legal tender notes to par value; and values of commodities must needs adjust themselves to the new conditions. The troubles were the difficulties of individuals, while men were ruined financially, wealth was not destroyed, it only

changed hands. When one man lost his farm it was gained by another. The land did not lie idle. When a number of small factories were closed a larger concern took the place of them. Production did not cease. Every avenue of trade was full of goods of improved styles. The world was surprised by the telephone; and various other novel inventions came into existence to lighten labor, cheapen production, and connect man with man, community with community, more intimately, and better, than ever before. New schools sprang up, the old ones improved, and education is on a better and stronger basis for good. Churches that were once thought good are torn away and finer ones built, and many a congregation is worshipping where none had existed before. Our territories are filling with people, and yielding their harvest. The means of travel have wonderfully increased. Peace and prosperity are on every hand. These are the outlines of some of the best of the high lights of the picture.

10.

But these are not all, nor are they the most brilliant lights of our present and recent past. In the multitude of changes of the wealth of the country from man to ~~man~~^{man}, the many lost and the few gained, until we began to number ~~the~~ millionaires by hundreds, then by thousands. Many of these men are producers of the highest type. Personal business ventures of a magnitude before undreamed of, are realized. It is found that when a great business is undertaken, with capital practically unlimited, and with the men employed working by rule, its various parts are brought into such harmony of relation, that the cost of production is greatly reduced. 5,000 men working to a common end under the direction of one skilled mind can produce more than 5,000 men each planning and working separately. This has become so well fixed in principle that to-day almost everything, for which there is a general demand is made in the great factory; and products have become better and cheaper.

II.

The rail roads, with notable exceptions, began as comparatively small beginnings. Many men in Jacksonville remember the first railway built in Illinois. This was projected from Springfield to the Illinois river, and ran through Jacksonville. It now forms a very small part of the Wabash system. That which has happened to this has happened to most of the railroads of the country. The small links become a parts of ~~a~~ great corporate systems under the control of one management, and finally are owned as one line. The separate lines are again consolidated into greater lines; and so on incessantly. Does any one doubt that the travelling public is better accomadated by the great consolidated lines than it would be by the numerous short lines under different managements. In this railway consolidation a few men are aggregating to themselves an immense proportion of the capitol of the nation. These are a few of the very brilliant ^{highlights} of the picture, but there are more to follow. There are

still forms of business that the greatest of our millionaires are not able to control single handed, nor yet the corporations formed by them. Forms of business in which there are still great rival firms with business plants in different parts of the country. In order that these may be brought in unison of action the trust has been invented. The trust has become the plan of action in any business in which the number of producers has become so small as to be manageable. In this way the work of manufacture and distribution of products is being again concentrated under fewer managements resulting in more orderly production, and in some degree preventing waste. I do not know that the whiskey trust has reduced the price of whiskey, or the number of saloons. But the coal-oil trust has reduced the price of oil; and, if I am not wrongly informed, they are now surveying the great Oil fields to the north of Manitoba with the view of obtaining control of them.

with the sanction of the Canadian government, and of developing their resources. It is only by such a trust that the development of vast oilfields situated beyond the pale of civilization is possible.

Blending.

These are some of the high lights of the picture, lights which stand out with unwanted brilliancy and throw the shadows into darker gloom. Many of the great trusts are organized for other purposes than the increase of production. They act rather to control production by limiting and equalizing it among the rival concerns; fixing prices, controlling wages, and so arranging its distribution that the product may bring a greater income to the capitalists. The people are coming to dread the power of these monopolies of production. They destroy competition.

Gladstone in his article on free trade (North American Review) suggests that the price of products is hard pressed by wages, and Senator Morrill infers (rather than says in so many words) in his reply, that wages are hard pressed by prices of products (North

American Review for March 1890). Are not ^{both} wages and prices hard pressed by profits? With the rivalry