

The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492, was one of the most important events in the history of the human race.

The settlements of the new world forms one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the world.

The birth of the United States of America was an event destined to play an important part in the struggle of nations.

~~The~~ And certainly there is no more important attractive story than the growth of this Republic from its infancy to the proud position it now occupies among the nations of the earth.

1769
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But 122 years have passed since Washington was inaugurated our first President.

50 years of this time are within my own memory.

40% of the history of our nation under the Constitution is within the memory of one who you can see by yourselves - is still a young man.

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Think of the remarkable material growth of our country during the last half of a century!

In 1861 - 50 years ago - our population was but 31 millions. To-day in the United States we have 92,000,000 of people.

In 1860 the wealth of our nation was \$16 billion of dollars. In fifty years we have added to our wealth until it has reached the fabulous sum of \$132 billions of dollars.

In 1860 the per capita wealth was \$500. To-day the per capita wealth in the United States is \$1400.

We are by far the richest nation on earth. Our wealth almost equals the combined wealth of England, Germany, and France.

Agriculture. In 1860 the annual products of our farms was worth only about \$1,500 million of dollars. In 1910 the products of our farms were valued at 9 billions of dollars. Corn crop. 1909 - worth ~~\$1,600 million~~ - now about all crops when worth in 1860

Mines. The annual product of our all farm property ~~in~~ in 1860 was worth \$8 billion. All farm property in 1910, was worth \$24 billions of dollars. Our farms and improvements in 1910, were worth double what all our wealth was in 1860.

Mines. The annual product of our mines in 1860 was 200 millions of dollars.

The annual product of our mines in 1910 was worth \$1,600,000,000.

In 1860 our mine but 13 million tons of coal - in 1910 our ^{nearly} mine 400 millions of tons.

Manufacture.

Our annual manufactured products in 1860 were worth less than 2 billions of dollars. In 1910 our manufactured products were worth 17 billions of dollars.

I think of it! From the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock up to 1860, — two hundred and fifty years — as a people we had accumulated but 16 billions of dollars in wealth. But in 1910 the annual output of our factories and manufacture is worth 17 billions — a thousand millions of dollars more than the total wealth in fifty years ago. Our farms in two years produce more wealth than we could infer from the Declaration of Independence to the breaking out of the Civil War.

But is money the foundation of our strength?

Is wealth the chief glory of our nation.

For the safety of our Republics are we to look to our bonds, and stocks, the deposits in our banks, to our farms, factories and manufacturing establishments, to our railways, and the riches of our mines.

Certainly not.

~~Neither our wealth, nor our army and navy~~

Our safety ~~and~~ does not lie in our great wealth.

This country and all its precious institutions.

Our self-respect

Above all these material things is the moral character of our people - the religious sentiment of the Nation, and the Christian character of our citizens.

Then with all our pride over the achievement in secular affairs, in what we have accomplished in material things, the ~~greatest~~ paramount question is how are in our moral development, in our religious work, in the propagation of the gospel, kept pace with our material growth?

~~As a people in our religious work we have kept made a record~~

Religious ~~and~~ Progress.

Compound

~~the~~

I am not here to ~~wish~~ to paint a gloomy picture of our moral and religious condition as a nation. There is much to give us encouragement. We are recognized as a Christian nation. Our moral standards are not excelled by the standards of morality in any ~~other~~ ^{other} nation of the earth. Religious sentiment is as positive and strong pronounced in America as any place on earth.

~~Christians~~ has a deeper

No where or ~~on~~ earth is the influence of Christianity more pronounced than under the stars and stripes.

34 million of our 92 million of people are church members. Nearly 40 per cent of our population are church members. We have in the United States 215,000 church houses - more churches than are found in any other country. 58,500,000 persons may be seated at once in our churches. It is has been ascertained by crowding the seats - that all our citizens could be placed in our church house at once. From 1890 to 1906 - 50,000 new churches were built in the United States. This was an increase in 16 years of 33 per cent. This was building churches at the rate of 60 per week, or 10 for every work-day in the week.

In the U.S. we have 140,000 Sunday Schools, 1,500,000 Sunday school teachers, and 11,000,000 Sunday School scholars. - nearly one half of the Sunday School scholars of the world.

But admitting that our moral and religious progress has been commendable, there still much has been left undone - there is much to be done - there is an unlimited field for religious work. What of the future? What should be our ideal? During the next fifty years - religious development should not merely keep pace with our industrial progress - but should ~~equal~~ exceed it. Christianity should grow faster than our wealth.

In planning for our future religious work may we not ~~learn~~ draw some valuable lessons from our material progress.

Why have we grown in wealth? What is the secret of our most recent material progress. What have been the prime factors in our material progress?

There are many things that contribute to this material growth.