

clean and the Renaissance periods was largely due to the superior opportunities afforded them of practising and perfecting their art. Polyclitus and Phidias would not be recognised to-day as the fathers of sculpture if their work had been confined to their studios or to the private collections of the wealthy. It was their employment in magnificent public works which gave them the opportunity to carry their art to its culmination in the Doryphorus, the Athena Parthenos, and the Olympian Zeus. The decoration of the temples of the gods and the public buildings of Greece employed sculptors and painters, and not only made artists, but in a large degree art itself. So was it in the Renaissance in Italy; the encouragement due to the demand for church and convent decoration, and later, that derived from the munificence of the great guilds and corporations, to say nothing of princely patrons, created an army of painters, and gave an impulse to art which is felt to-day in every civilised land. Whatever we may think of the reciprocal relations of art and religion, it is certain that modern art hinges directly on the art of the past, and derives from it its most valued traditions. The sculptor, no matter what his clime or race, still draws his models from the masterpieces of Greece; the painter still turns to Italy for inspiration. This which is true of every modern school is well exemplified in the French. Passing by Leonardo and Primaticcio and his assistants who carried that art to France, French art was early linked to the schools of Italy through Poussin, who lived and died in Rome. To him and to his pupil Le Brun, through whose influence was founded the French Academy in Rome, is largely due the distinctive character of Gallic art, which down to the present time has preserved an unbroken chain of traditions to which all its prominent masters have been linked. And this is one of the chief reasons, if not the chief reason, why the French school leads the world of art to-day, as it assuredly does, in spite of the critics who affect to sneer at academic methods.

"The nation that founds public art museums and picture galleries, whose citizens expend their wealth in decorating their homes with the masterpieces of foreign art, is on the high way to art education. The contemplation of the great works of antiquity and the best examples of the schools of the present will gradually raise the standard of art culture, but it alone will not make great artists, nor create a national art. Rome under the Cæsars was one immense museum into which was gathered the art wealth of the ancient world, but history has preserved the name of no great Roman painter or sculptor.

"The evolution of art requires an educated public. Great art would be lost among barbarians, and the people which has not advanced sufficiently in culture to know the difference between imitative and creative art is still barbarian in art itself. Similarity in art is the mark of mediocrity. Art which has passed the imitative age—and no art can be called great which has not passed that stage—has in it something which gives it individuality, which raises it above the level of ordinary good art.

"They who look for the spontaneous blossoming and fructification of a purely American art therefore will be doomed to disappointment. Our art must necessarily be in some sense the reflection of foreign art, for only through it can we win a place in the genealogical succession from the art of the past; but it does not follow that it must always wear the imprint of foreign schools. In order to expand our art into something characteristic of us and of our institutions public sentiment must be advanced sufficiently to recognise and to give encouragement to native talent. As our artists can hope for little aid from either state or church, our rich men must be to them what the government was to the Greek, what the church and the guild were to the artists of the Renaissance. Let the Cæsars who wish to decorate their mansions look about them before inviting proposals from London and Paris, and see if there are no struggling geniuses who are competent to do their work. Among so many of our young men who have exhibited exceptional ability in the Paris and Munich schools, there must be some with capacity for great development if properly encouraged. Private encouragement would lead to public encouragement, and thus might be produced artists capable of decorating our public buildings with paintings and sculptures which would be an education and the precursor of distinctive art. And by this I mean the art representative of the present not of the dead past; an art quick with the blood of to-day which shall depict living humanity instead of pseudo-classicism and mediævalism."

### THE AMERICAN STATE AND THE AMERICAN MAN.

In Mr. Goldwin Smith's article in the *Contemporary Review*, on the Canadian Constitution, the following occurs with regard to Provincial Legislatures: "Too much power, at the same time, is given to the Canadian Legislatures, especially to those of the Provinces. It is almost appalling to think what changes, not political or legal only, but social and economical, may be made by the single vote of a Provincial Legislature composed of men fit perhaps to do mere local business, such as comes before a county council, but hardly fit for the higher legislation, especially since the choice of men for the Local Legislatures has been limited by the Act which prevents members of the Dominion House from sitting in a Local House also." The following abridgment of an article in a recent number of the *Contemporary*, showing the scope of State legislation among our neighbours, may have a special interest, in view of the expression of this opinion.

THE writer selects Minnesota as the seat of action, being one of the newer western States with the latest legislative improvements. The Legislature of Minnesota holds sessions of sixty days, beginning with the first Monday in January, and the subject now discussed is the laws enacted during the session of 1885. Northern Minnesota and Northern Dakota are agricultural States, their leading crop being wheat; conse-

quently the marketing and loading of grain became matters of prime importance to the farming community. Minnesota and Dakota grain was handled by extensive elevator companies having headquarters at Minneapolis and Duluth and other points, and maintaining a series of warehouses at frequent intervals along the railroads. By special contracts and private understandings with the railroad companies, these elevator lines were able to maintain in effect a monopoly in the storage and purchase of grain. The farmers were thus shut off from the advantages of an open market, and had a real grievance. In this mood they elected their legislative representatives. The body was largely composed of farmers, and its avowed object was the strict regulation by law of railroads and of the handling of grain, and in which, moreover, it succeeded; while the subject was brought prominently before at least a dozen of the Legislatures of 1885, and the famous Reagan Bill for the regulation of inter-State railroad traffic engrossed Congress during the best weeks of the winter session.

Southern Minnesota has outlived the wheat-growing and crop-farming period, and is engaged in the more profitable pursuit of dairy-farming. The region is peculiarly adapted to butter and cheese making, and the industry has developed marvellously in a few years, with large expectations for the future. The dairy farmers have sought and obtained the protection and patronage of the State. A new bureau has been erected, manned by a State Dairy Commissioner and his subordinate officers, its object being to protect the butter makers and great creamery establishments from the competition of the artificial product known as butterine. This article is manufactured on a vast scale at Chicago; its principal ingredients are hogs' lard, cotton seed oil, and genuine butter. Experts have pronounced it thoroughly healthful, and desirable as a cheap substitute for butter. [Take notice, Canadian farmers, of your competitor in the Republic.] A single Chicago firm manufactures a larger quantity of it than the total butter product of the great dairy State of Iowa, and it undersells real butter even throughout the dairy region. It is estimated that four or five million pounds of it were sold as real butter in Minnesota in 1884. The new law of 1885 banishes this artificial article from the State.

The extensive cattle business of the west is another department of rural industry which has grown into such prominence as to have claimed and received the patronage and regulation of the State. The cattle men were predominant in the last Territorial Legislature of Montana, and the result is a formidable array of new laws touching every feature of the cattle industry.

The vast pine forests of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota for years have constituted the largest source of the lumber supply of the United States. Perhaps few persons besides those immediately interested are aware to what extent the laws of these three States have encompassed the logging and lumbering business. These States are divided into lumbering districts, and each district is supplied with its corps of State inspectors, scalers, etc. Not a log is floated down stream from the woods to the saw-mill for which it is destined without official cognisance.

The insurance business is conducted under strict regulations in most of the western States. The State Insurance Commissioner is an important officer in Minnesota. New laws extend his supervision beyond the regular insurance companies to all the numerous societies and local organisations which practice co-operative insurance. A special tax on insurance companies yields a considerable revenue. In Wisconsin the fire insurance companies are compelled to pay the full amount of a policy in case of a total loss, irrespective of the actual extent of the damage.

Savings banks in Minnesota are organised under a peculiarly rigid system of laws, and are subject to the inspection of a useful State officer, known as the Public Examiner, who also supervises the book-keeping of State and county officers, and scrutinises the accounts of public institutions. A State Oil Inspector derives a handsome salary from inspection of the illuminating oils sold in the State. A State Board of Medical Examiners regulates the practice of medicine, examining and admitting all new practitioners. A new law creates a Board of Pharmacy for the examination of all druggists and compounding clerks. Another new law regulates the practice of dentistry and creates an additional State Board. Among the miscellaneous instances of regulation should be included the fish and game laws, which are minute and exhaustive. A State Board of Inspectors for steam boilers in Minnesota licenses stationary engineers, and carries out an elaborate statute which regulates the testing and operating of steam engines and boilers.

Among the enactments of the last Minnesota Legislature is one which fixes the maximum proportion of toll to be exacted by a custom mill for grinding wheat or other grain; one which declares dogs to be personal property; another which sets forth the aggravating circumstances under which a farmer may slay his neighbour's dog with impunity; another regulating the business of operating telegraph lines; one which provides for the collecting of criminal statistics; one prescribing in detail the character of the passenger waiting-rooms, which all railway companies must maintain at their stopping-places in villages, towns, and cities; and another providing for storage and disposal of unclaimed baggage and freight; another to prevent fraud in the use of false brands, stamps, labels, or trade marks; one to protect all citizens in their civil and legal rights, and prescribing penalties for discrimination against individuals in inns, public conveyances, barber shops, and the like.

In no part of the world perhaps is State interference in behalf of the public health less required by circumstances than in the North-west portion of the United States, and yet new laws have given Minnesota a more stringent system of health regulations than exists in any other part of the Republic. Besides the State Board of Health, which has extensive functions, every township, borough, village, and city is required to have its local