

worth of a state in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it."

The young men of to-day enjoy far better opportunities than their predecessors of any former generation. Wider doors of thrift and usefulness, in the highest and noblest sense, are open before them. We know that this sentiment is denied, and that it is common to speak of the avenues to success as being closed now to the mass of young men. Croakers say that the time for young men to compete for the prize has passed, — that the coveted places of thrift and honor are over-crowded, and that now young men must content themselves with a back seat and small acquisitions. But the plea is false. There never was so much room for the BEST as there is to-day; and this class possesses such facilities for conquest as Providence did not vouchsafe fifty years ago. The field is not now the "potato patch" of the farm; not the narrow limits of our little New England, no bigger than a man's hand in comparison with the great national domain. The field of exploits stretches beyond the "Father of Waters" to the shores of the Pacific, from Hudson's Bay on the North to the Gulf of Mexico on the South; and Providence invites every young man to this vast arena of action extending from sea to sea. Already the pioneer is found at the utmost verge of this territory, trading, mining, farming, surveying; already commerce has appropriated the products of its soil and the minerals of its mountains to swell the nation's wealth; already learning has built her temples where the wild savage was but recently the only human denizen, and religion reared her