

THE ETHICS OF IMPERIALISM

friends of popular liberty, and they have been steadily accompanied by an improvement in the condition of the people. The French Revolution was an immense step forward in the popular liberties of the French people; and the material conditions of the French people advanced with the same stride. The happiness of the people of Europe to-day agrees almost exactly with the measure of liberty they enjoy. The discovery of America opened a new door of opportunity, relaxed the hold which the tyrannical land-owners of Europe held upon their peasantry, and thus brought an access of liberty even to those who did not cross the Atlantic; and it was followed by a wave of prosperity and bettered conditions wherever its influence was felt. In America, with its boundless wealth of free land, great liberty was enjoyed; and one of the finest communities which history has ever seen, grew up as a result. The people of the United States a generation ago, like the people of Canada to-day, were world models in sobriety, intelligence, mental acuteness, and a high average of industrial capacity. No