

elaborate application than the world had ever seen. Webster has truly said : "The colonists of English America were of the people, and a people already free. They were of the middle, industrious and already prosperous class, the inhabitants of commercial and manufacturing cities, among whom Liberty first revived and respired, after a sleep of one thousand years in the bosom of the Dark Ages. Spain descended on the New World in the armed and terrible image of her monarchy and her soldiery ; England approached it in the winning and popular garb of personal rights, public protection and civil freedom." And had an English king and his ministers continued that policy in the last century the American revolution might have been averted and the unhappy schism of the Anglo-Saxon race prevented. Be that as it may, free institutions received a tremendous impetus from the creation of the American Republic. Liberty, fraternity, and equality are much-abused terms, and sometimes we turn with disgust from the eternal declamations of French revolutionary days. But after all what man is there among us, who knowing anything of European history, will deliberately deny that popular government, religious toleration, and civil equality, have received of all the world the most varied and successful treatment in the states of the American Union. We cannot, however, enter into a historical retrospect of such problems just here, but must hasten to a consideration of some features of New England life as it appears to-day.

It is a common saying that Americans are conceited and self-opinionated. Proud of their history and possessing enormous material wealth, it is said that they have become intoxicated over their achievements, and a sort of fourth of July sentiment is created and inspired by a wave of the stars and stripes. Well, each one must judge for himself, but so far as my reading and experience go, the criticism seems unsound. It is a well-known fact that in the earlier years of the republic the braggadocio spirit was much more common. They gloried in their escape from European slavery and every now and then a jingo president fanned into white heat the flames of bombast and ill-will. But just as a child becomes a man, and throws away childish things, so I believe the American people in the second century of their maturity, are discarding the methods of the quack and buffoon. Certainly, among the more thoughtful and educated, this spirit is entirely absent and I believe that by far the great majority of Americans of all shades, are happy to know that other nations have accomplished great things, that other countries