

garden of the fairest civilization. Many thousands of years were occupied by man in his journey from the hypothetical cradle of the race eastward to the western shore of the Pacific, and westward to its eastern shore. This encompassment of the earth by civilization completed the circle of human migration. It was a long way from America to China, and a still longer period was occupied by progressive man in passing from the same initial point to Egypt and Greece, to Rome and western Europe, and finally to America, and across its plains and mountains to its western seaboard. But after two or three hundred years had been consumed in extending settlement from the Atlantic coast to mid-continent, quick work was made of the remainder. To the ripeness of the time was added one of those culminating periods of progress, in which human affairs are forced onward to the accomplishment in a few years of what ordinarily occupies centuries. A progressional spasm of this kind occurred on the Pacific coast about the middle of the present century.

The events thus culminating, and which were the seed to sudden and brilliant blossoming, were the war with Mexico, ending in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the cession by Mexico to the United States of all that region west of northern Texas and Colorado to the Pacific ocean; the discovery of rich placer gold deposits for five hundred miles along the foothills of the California sierra, and the establishing of a line of ocean steamships between the eastern and western seaboard via the isthmus of Panamá. The more immediate results were the rapid inflowing of population; a revolutionizing of the world's