

### "THE GREAT WEST."

THE East constantly hears of the recklessness, the bad manners, and the immorality of the West, just as England hears of all our iniquities, but who can tell the tale of those quiet lives which are the life-blood of the country—its present strength and its hope for the future?

Society in the West does not hide its wounds so closely as in the East, but is there not hope in the very fact of this openness?

"The Great West" occupies the western part of North America, and comprises the great prairies of the United States and the northwest territory of the Dominion. The climate is, as a general rule, mild throughout the year; even in January, the air has an Indian Summer mildness. On the Pacific Coast, the climate is certainly not favorable to asceticism. The flowers blossom profusely all the year round, and all the surroundings seem to tempt man to live after the flesh.

Nature here is so wild that it is difficult to bring it under the range of human emotion and sympathies. It cannot be made to express half-shades of meaning, but there is a massive and savage grandeur which would fitly accompany an opera like "Lohengrin." The lines of the landscape are broad and simple. The dark, smoky, blue mountains which have always been noted for the fact of their being heavily timbered, rise and gradually recede, with stretches of plain between, like the circling seats of a great amphitheatre. The effect is brilliant when one sees the yellow-white glare of these mountains in the sun; but it is a relief to turn from this immovable, solid brightness even to the piercingly blue depths of the sky, or to the changing white foam flashes.

A colorist would rejoice in the luminous shadows that bring out all the purple, and red, and green tints which the blinding light effaces.

Fancy yourself in California in November (but not the November of the East). Already the fields are getting softly, tenderly green, as in early spring. Wild roses are to be found growing along the sandy paths by the shore. Go into a grape-arbor and there is a smell of ripening grapes. The dead leaves curl and drop; they have the same

rustle as on still, fall days. The winter rains are looked upon as a blessing; if they are withheld, all is gloom for another year; if they come in joyous abundance, the dread is past.

The country is rich in minerals, and the accumulation of wealth has been very rapid, perhaps more especially in California and British Columbia. The aggregate gold products of California up to the present time is about \$990,000,000. In San Francisco alone, there are at least sixty millionaires. It is marvellous the amount of hidden treasure the earth produces there. Thus, it is not surprising that the people occasionally lose their heads and abandon temporarily the more conservative channels of business, and seek their fortunes on the street. Perhaps nowhere is witnessed such a representation of almost every nation on the globe.

Labor is more remunerative than anywhere else, and in consequence the people live, perhaps, rather extravagantly. Chicago, one of the largest cities of the West, is the greatest grain market on the globe. It is one of the wonders of the age. Only a few years ago it was a very small town. In all directions from northeast to southeast are rural towns within ten or fifteen minutes ride by the cars. The West has greatness literally thrust upon it, and cannot escape its magnificent destiny if it tried. The steam and railroad communication is working great results, and as "all roads lead to Rome," so all the streams of commerce from the east countries on the eastern shores of the Pacific flow by an inevitable law of gravitation to the "Great West."

How far the men of the present time will be able to utilize their opportunities is a problem not quite yet solved. J. R.

AN eccentric, but amiable and respected clergyman on sitting down to compose his first discourse after having committed matrimony, resolved to select a text which could not be twisted by his hearers into the remotest allusion to the connection he had so recently formed. But "the best laid schemes of mice and men, etc.;" to the great amusement of the less serious part of his congregation, the reverend gentleman gave out: "For I would that ye all were even as I am this day, except these bonds."