

Conservation and Technical Education

theirs and ours, shall have a chance to thrive and rise.

WHAT WE HAVE.

I have tried to shed a little light on who we are; now I turn to what we have. Ours is the greatest estate that ever came into the unearned possession of seven or eight millions of people. I have no time to describe it, nor have I knowledge or capacity for that. I can only bring glimpses of a few of its great features. Our land is a continent wide. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, there are four vast areas, each with many districts of varied resources. For a thousand miles westward from the Atlantic is the first great stretch of land and rivers and lakes, a land of apple trees, of clover blossoms, of running streams, of cloud-decked skies, a land flowing with milk and honey. It is a thousand miles for homes. Where else is there such another place for children? Then a thousand miles of wilderness north of the Great Lakes is our reservoir for the regulation of climate, as to rainfall east and west. Its forests need conservation.

A thousand miles of prairies stretch westward into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Fifty thousand years or more the Lord took to make its surface rich and fit for crops—fifty thousand years of Nature's far-sighted economy. Then along comes a man, may be some foreigner whom long oppression and suppression have made greedy and left ignorant, and in fifty years he dissipates for the good of nobody, what Nature was fifty thousand years in conserving. Such a man has no business at large. We should not allow him to do wantonly anywhere. This is our heritage, and it should be conserved, not merely for the benefit of the man who