

and art. The forests still stand, scarcely broken; but the sound of the advancing host, which is to level them with the ground, and build up the structures of civil society, can not be mistaken. They come with the heavy tread and confused noise of an army with banners.

"The growth of the American States, as we have said, is from the outer to the inner circles; from the shores of the Atlantic and the Pacific, from the Bay of St. Lawrence and the mouths of the Hudson and the Mississippi, toward the interior. Then we had Boston, New York, Quebec, and New Orleans, long before we had Pittsburg, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Chicago, which are the second growth when the wave flowed over the Alleghanies. Again the wave is flowing from the valleys of the St. Lawrence, the Ohio, and the Mississippi, into the great central basin of the Lakes, which, lying in the very center of the North American Continent, are the last to receive, as they will ultimately concentrate, the great moving mass of humanity and civilization. The circles are growing narrower, and Mackinaw, which was the center of Indian and of missionary romance, will finally become one of the great centers of commercial growth and social progress, presenting the contrast between the solitudes of nature and the wild life of the Indian, on one hand, with the busy activity of modern society, its multitude of people, and the wonderful arts.

"The steady, uninterrupted growth of our country, which no other nation can now interrupt, affords at once the moral evidence that what we have seen of growth and development in the past will be exhibited in a progressive line through the future till ages have passed away. We have seen from the little settlements at Plymouth and Jamestown their gradual growth inward, till cities arose along our coasts which rival the largest of ancient nations. We have seen them, again, extending along the Ohio and the Mississippi, till great towns, filled with commerce and with arts, arose upon their banks. We have seen them enter the basin of the Lakes, till Buffalo spreads itself along the rapids of Niagara, till Chicago looms up in a day