

calm hour, to contemplate it, in its *physical, educational, political and religious aspects.*

I. *First, we are to view it in its PHYSICAL aspect.*

Behold, then, the ideal actualized, the vision realized, as the mission of the Pilgrims has been hastening to its fulfillment. See what changes in the physical aspects of our land have been wrought, through their instrumentality, since the date of their landing. As we retire into the dark and dream-like past, we see the solitudes of the wilderness unbroken, save by the soft gush of bird-song, by beasts of prey, or savages prowling on the prairie or hot-pursuing in the war-path. We see nature in all her wild sublimity, with no sign or trace of civilized man—her mountains rising in silent majesty, with all their mineral wealth as yet unknown—her mighty rivers, deepening the channels in which they had flowed for centuries, but bearing no freighted wealth upon their bosom—her wide-extended prairies, all enameled with the wild flower, yet never yielding a rich and golden fruitage beneath the hand of a vigorous culture. See now, in the contrast, what has been wrought! The deep and frowning forests have fallen before the axe of the bold and hardy adventurer. Where once the wretched wigwam stood, and its inmates reveled in the dance, stately cities, beautiful villages, and cultivated farms now attract the eye. Where once the whoop of the solitary hunter was the only human sound that echoed through the deep solitudes of the wilderness, may now be heard the noise of clattering machinery,