

lion inhabitants. I saw cities and towns that had sprung up since the century's birth, and become great manufacturing and commercial centres. In these cities and towns I heard the whir of innumerable cotton-spindles; the purring sound of molten metal, as it was poured into mould and matrix; the clatter of hundreds of sewing-machines, as they made into garments the cotton and woollen fabrics manufactured on Texas looms. I passed by great buildings, noisy with the rattle of machinery that manufactured all manner of articles fashioned of iron and steel, and brass and copper. In one city the manufacture of pottery and glass was the principal industry: in another, it was paper, leather, and agricultural implements.

We stopped for a moment on the magnificent monument erected on Capitol Hill, Austin, in 1895, by the State of Texas, to commemorate the heroic deeds done at the Alamo. From the summit of this imposing pile, we looked down upon the capital of the largest, richest, and politically the most powerful, State in the Union.

An old man stood beside me on the parapet, talking to a boy. He said, —

"My son, the advantages that surround you should give you much cause for thankfulness. When I was your age, a large majority of the men who held office, and who made our laws, were old fossils, who were fit for little else than to tell lies about how honest the citizens of Texas were, and what good times they had, in 'the palmy days of the republic.'

"They retarded the growth and progress of the State by their moss-backed laws, illiberal policy, and short-sighted statesmanship; but, thank God! these things could only delay, not prevent, the progress of a State with the wonderful natural advantages that Texas has. In the time I speak of, much of our great wealth of public land was squandered. The State did very little to educate her children. The doors of the public schools were closed nine months in the year. We had not a public library in the State; and the man who was so ignorant that he could not write his name had the same voice in the government of the country that the most intelligent citizen had. In those days the law said, in substance, that twelve of