

in the school and lecture room, from the pulpit, and upon the stage, by the tendencies of legislative enactment, and in the utterance of the Press, and by the Jury which finds the poor man obviously right and the rich man necessarily wrong.

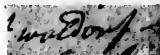
The theorists, who at the close of the American Revolution elaborated a Federal Government, very logically adopted the principle as the pivot about which much of their legislation circled, that large fortunes are contrary to the austere tenets of republican simplicity. The minds of these men, from their infancy, were under the influence of a religious aversion to the pomps and vanities of riches. The framers of the American Constitution left upon that remarkable instrument the imprint of their deliberate intention, that the heirs of the men who achieved American Independence should be nowise favoured by the entails and primogeniture and hereditary successions of Courts and Cavaliers. They aimed at the continual redistribution of accumulated property—from shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in two generations, as it is nowadays phrased—and their purpose was

encouraged in no small degree by the preponderating religious sentiment of New England, whose favourite discourse it was that only by a miracle, equivalent to the most improbable phenomenon, could a rich man enter into Heaven.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the new Republic comprised a



Waldorf.



(From a water-colour sketch.)

strip extending along the Atlantic seaboard from the Green Mountains to the Spanish possessions in Florida. All west of Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas was Indian territory, into which only a few adventurous pioneers had penetrated. No white man had yet crossed the continent, and but few had seen the Great Lakes or the Mississippi. The five millions of keen freemen and freewomen who inhabited the Thirteen States were unsurpassed in enterprise and endurance, and it appeared to be manifest destiny that the vast tracts stretching westward, belonging to France, to Spain, and to the aboriginal inhabitants, should become their inheritance. It was during this early period of recovery from the devastation of the revolutionary struggle, and when New York was rising from the ashes of the conflagration of 1776, that a poor German lad, whose name was destined to become famous, arrived at that city in November 1784.

My great-grandfather was born in a peasant's cottage in the village of Waldorf, or Wald-Dorf, "the village in a wood," near Heidelberg, on July 17th, 1763. He received the usual parish school education, and at the age of sixteen left