

Justice to ourselves requires that we take into account the fact that our own section is younger than some parts of the country, or than many portions of the adjacent republic; and that till a very recent period of years, its condition has been unfavorable to progress in such pursuits as tend to advance and enrich a people speedily. Commerce was long confined to the cities; manufactures were in their infancy if in existence at all; and our agricultural products were limited in kind and quantity.

Now, however, affairs wear a changed aspect. The work of improvement has been slow to our impatient wishes, but in comparing the present of to-day, with the past of thirty and forty years, the change is surprising. Both material interests and educational improvements have made rapid advancement, and we have now arrived at the point which promises well for our future if we but prove true to our best and highest interests, and the moral improvement of our people keeps pace with their intellectual culture and material prosperity.

Our greatest danger in this age of progression—of becoming quickly rich—of unparalleled vicissitude, is that during the bustle in which we necessarily “move and have our being,” we become so absorbed in the strife that our moral perceptions are obscured, and in prospect of immediate present acquirement and enjoyment, we lose sight of the legitimate ends and aims of life.

A people may become highly civilized, may advance in wealth, learning, and the arts; may possess culti-