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VANDERBILT'S PALACE AND ITS WONDERFUL PARKS.

IT IS SAID TO BE ABOUT THE FINEST RESIDENCE AND ESTATE IN THE WORLD.

A Perfect Dream of Landscape Gardening—An Avenue with all the Trees of the World.—Miles of Perfume.

Since the visit of President McKinley and the newspaper men to Biltmore, there has been renewed interest in Mr. Vanderbilt's garden of Eden. It said that Biltmore house is the finest private residence in the world. George W. Vanderbilt has lavished his wealth on this place and its adjacent park. The park is more than twice the size of Atlanta, containing about 13,000 acres, and the hunting preserve, reaching to Mount Pisgah, contains 125,000 acres, or 195 square miles.

The park is all that landscape gardeners can make it. The site is ideal, rolling and broken, and made picturesque by the course of the French Broad river. Twelve miles of macadamized roads wind about among the the rarest flowers and shrubs of the world. The mountain laurel grows beside the rhododendron, and the honey-suckle interlocks its foliage with rarer vines along the borders. Miles of spruce and balsam are mingled with other shrubs, and it is impossible to distinguish between the indigenous and the exotic. No one can tell where nature leaves off and art begins. The entire wonderful variety of flowers and shrubs seems to have sprung from the soil without care. The drainage is perfect, and the exhilarating air is laden with the perfume of flowers, intermingled in indescribable bouquet.

Biltmore house rests on an eminence 2,800 feet above the sea level, overlooking most of the park, with a view of half a hundred mountain peaks that rise to a height of 4,000 to 6,200 feet. It is a granite chatean, with a esplanade and ramp in front. The mansion has its great hall, tapestry room, banquet hall, dining room, billiard rooms, swimming pool and baths, and a library that fills two stories of the west wing. The library overlooks a bowling green and tennis court. The park has its golf links and its fish preserves, a herd of 400 Jerseys, a dairy farm, stock farm, conservatories and nurseries. The nurseries provide the shrubs and trees for the park, and the gentleman in charge, who is a graduate of Harvard college, has at his disposal a costly botanical library. The farms and gardens, conservatories and dairies, are conducted on the most approved scientific plan, and the horses are cared for by the best of trainers and grooms.

The employees of the estate, about 600 in number, are the most contented of people. They are well paid and not overworked. For their benefit All Soul's church was built. Mr. Vanderbilt presented it to the parish, and pays the preacher, the organist, the chorister and a choir of of 35 people. Nevertheless, collections are taken every Sunday, and when he is there, Mr. Vanderbilt officiates as a vestryman and hands round the plate. The offerings are all devoted to charity.

The hunting preserve attached to Biltmore is under the care of a head forester who is a graduate of the German school of forestry. He has a number of assistants and the trees are nursed like plants. Every year a certain proportion are culled to make room for growth.

'Arboretum Road,' now being constructed and planted, will be lined with trees, including every known species that will grow in this climate. It will take years to complete the work, but when done it will be a beautiful object lesson. The forestry of the hunting preserve will set a pattern for this kind of work in America. The preserve has bears, deer, pheasants and other game of the region, and is being stocked with other birds and animals.

Mr. Vanderbilt chose this site as one of the most beautiful in the world. The picturesque beauty of the mountain region is made delightful by the peculiar stimulating quality of the atmosphere. Its dryness and bracing coolness make it a tonic equal to champagne. The trip through the "land of the sky" from Salisbury to Asheville, and down the French Broad and Holston rivers to East Tennessee by the Southern Railway is an exhilarating experience. Climbing up Round Knob, the track winds about the mountain 14 times, and the train climbs 1400 feet in 12 miles. At the summit is a tunnel. Emerging from this, the train whirls into full view of Royal Gorge, a grand avenue among the mountains. As far as the eye can reach, mountains rise to the right and left, with broken valleys between. This region is easily reached from any part of the South by the Southern Railway.

Now for the first time since the discovery of the "land of the sky" there is a car service with closely connecting schedules between Asheville and all points reached through Atlanta.—Atlanta Journal.

SIXTY YEARS OF GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

In Population, Wealth, Manufactures, Railroads, Education and Productive Power we Lead.

The burden of the Victorian jubilee song is the great growth of Great Britain at home and abroad during the sixty years of Victoria's reign. But in the language of the Man in the Street, "there are others."

Uncle Sam's jubilee, for instance, would be very much more impressive even than Queen Victoria's.

The British Emplre in 1897 includes a total area of 11,335,806 square miles and a population of 380,000,000, using round figures. While a great part of this vast territory was acquired either by conquest, treaty or settlement, in the reigns of Victoria's predecessors, yet the population and development thereof have been accomplished mostly in the past sixty years.

Extent of territory is not in itself a test of national power or prosperity; otherwise the acquisition of Alaska would be the greatest achievement of American history in sixty years.

It is not the number of square miles that make a nation great, but the number and quality of the men to the miles. In 1841 (the year of the first Victorian census) the United Kingdom had 27,000,000 inhabitants. In 1891 it had nearly 38,000,000. It appears that the Queen is ruling to-day over about 11,000,000 more subjects than she did in 1837.

During the same period the United Kingdom has sent out about 9,000,000 surplus population, half of whom have come to this country.

The actual increase in the number of the Queen's white subjects at home and abroad appears to have been about 23,000,000. Sir Walter Besant estimates that, scattered over the whole of the British Empire, there are now about 50,000,000 people speaking the English language.

But the growth of the United States in population has been far greater. In 1840, three years after Victoria became Queen, the population of the United States was about 17,000,000. In 1897 the population of the United States, according the estimates made by Governors of the States and Territories, was over 74,000,000.

While the people who speak English under the British flag have been about doubling themselves, the people who speak that language under the American flag have multiplied four and one-third times. Putting it most generously for our British jubilee friends, we have been adding to our population twice as fast as they have for the past sixty years.

Passing now to the comparison of wealth, there are no official figures available to show what the aggregate national wealth of the United Kingdom was in 1837. But there are abundant later statistics to warrant the statement that, great as the growth of British commerce, manufactures, railroads and the resulting total production of wealth has been under Victoria's rule, the contemporaneous creation of wealth in the United States has been much greater.

Editor Stead, in the current Review of Reviews, says that the wealth of the United Kingdom has been multiplied four times since 1837. If he is correct, its valuation when the Queen was crowned must have been $12,500,000,000.

The census taken in 1840 showed that the aggregate wealth of the United States about $4,000,000,000 or an average of $410 per capita. As last computed, by the census of 1890, the total wealth of this country is $65,037,000,000. That is just about 35 per cent. greater than the computed total of the wealth of Great Britain.

England's total wealth to-day is estimated by her own famous statistician, Dr. Robert Giffen, at $50,175,000,000. So she is behind the United States in the size of her pile by $14,000,000,000. Uncle Sam's farm is worth more than John Bull's in the proportion of at least 13 to 10.

It is not easy to ascertain precisely how much faster the American people are producing and accumulating wealth than their British cousins, but a few indicative figures may be given. From 1860 to 1890 this country added about $49,000,000,000 to its stock of wealth, or an amount nearly equal to the total wealth of Great Britain, as estimated by Dr. Giffen. If, in thirty years of the Victorian sixty, the United States have increased their wealth by an amount equal to the whole of Britain's accumulated wealth, it is evident that we are at least gaining twice as fast as they are.

In the one item of real estate the valuation of this country stands relatively to that of Great Britain as 2 to 1. The lands and buildings of the United Kingdom were last valued at about $20,000,000,000, and those of the United States at just about $40,000,000,000.

The wealth in houses in this "land of the free" represented an annual investment of about $12.50 per inhabitant for the twenty years ending with 1890. The annual average in Great Britain represented an annual investment of less than $6 per inhabitant for the same period.

Inasmuch as economists tell us that the outlay on houses is the surest gage of wealth, it thus appears that the average accumulation of property in the United States is more than double what it is in the British Islands.

Coming next to commerce we find Mr. Stead claiming that British trade and shipping are about five times as extensive and valuable in 1897 as they were in 1837. He points to the fact that the value of the annual exports and imports of the Kingdom rose from $700,000,000 in 1837 to nearly $3,500,000,000 in the nineties.

But we can dwarf these figures also. Sixty years ago the total imports and exports of the United States were less than $200,000,000 per year. Now they are over $1,500,000,000 a year. While British foreign trade has been multiplying fivefold American foreign trade has multiplied sevenfold.

In the matter of railroads, Mr. Stead says truly that the great bulk of British railroad mileage has been built since Victoria began to reign. Even so, our railroad building record beats it "all hollow."

The total railroad mileage of the United Kingdom to-day is about 21,000 miles. The railway mileage of the United States is more than nine times as large. We have over 180,000 miles of railroads already built, and that is more than the combined railroad mileage of all the nations of Europe put together.

In the single year of 1887 nearly as many miles were built in this country as the entire number of miles built in England and Wales in the past sixty years.

In railroad growth and activity, therefore, Uncle Samuel has distanced the Britishers 9 to 1.

Coming next to manufactures, Mr. Stead gives a diagram showing that between 1837 and 1897 the value of Britisish manufactures has about doubled. That is a good lively gait, but it does not touch the pace at which manufactures have grown in the United States. Our statistics are not complete enough for close comparison away back in 1837, but we have the figures from 1850 to 1890.

In 1850 the gross value of the manufactured products of this country was $1,000,000,000, using round figures. In 1890 the gross value of the product of American manufactures was $9,400,000,000. So that in forty years American manufactures increased in value of ninefold, as against a twofold increase in the value of British manufactures in sixty years.

Mr. Mulhall, the celebrated British statistician, has pointed out that "the productive power of a nation can be measured at each census with almost the same precision as that with which the astronomer indicates the distances of the heavenly bodies." An able-bodied male adult has a daily working power equal to that required to lift 300 tons one foot. On this basis Mr. Mulhall reports the physical power of the American nation to-day to be equal to 6,406 millions of foot tons per day. To that he adds the horse-power and steam power of the country, and reports the total daily lifting power in the United States at 129,806 millions of foot tons. The meaning of this statement is better understood when it is added that, by Mr. Mulhall's computation, "the United States possesses almost as much productive energy as Great Britain, Germany and France collectively."

He tells us further that an average farm hand in the United States raises as much grain as three farm hands in old England, by reason of his superior machinery and tools. Whence we deduct the fact that the daily working power, or capacity for productive labor, of the United States is about three times as great at least as that of Britain.

Finally there is the matter of education, and perhaps after all this is the point of comparison of which we have the best right to be proud. The census of 1890 shows that 87 per cent. of our total population above the age of ten can both read and write. In the words of Mr. Mulhall, "in the history of the human race no nation ever before possessed 41,000,000 instructed citizens."

Great Britain is no doubt the leading nation in Europe in the matter of popular education, but the United States had a common school system away back when Victoria began to reign and long before, while Great Britain has only had one for about twenty-two years. Even to-day British expenditure on public schools is only $1.30 per capita, while the United States are spending $2.40 per capita for the same purpose, or nearly twice as much.

In all the comparative aspects of national growth and prosperity Uncle Sam can look on and smile serenely, and without envy, at Victoria's jubilee demonstrations, for if John Bull had been doing well for the past sixty years, Uncle Sam has been doing a great deal better. —*N. Y. World.*

President Hayes' Little Book.

Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Charles Foster was talking to me one day about Rutherford B. Hayes. Foster represented Hayes' district in congress when Hayes was president. They were political and personal friends of almost a lifetime standing. Said Foster to me:

"I got plenty of patronage under Hayes, to be sure, but for a long time I never landed the men in whom I was most particular and earnestly interested. I would go to the president and lay the claims of my man before him. He would usually acquiesce in everything that I said, because in most cases he knew the applicants as well as I did. Well, in every instance where some devoted friend was concerned the president would say, 'Oh, well, Charlie, we will fix that in a day or so!' Then he would reach down in a drawer, pull out a small book and a short stub of a pencil and make a note of the man and his wants. I would then for days to come scan with much interest the list of appointments sent to the senate, but none that had found a place in the president's notebook was to be seen among them. Still, I didn't complain much, for I knew that Hayes was doing the best he could. Time went on, and finally I called at the White House to insist that a certain friend of mine who was then in Washington be instantly appointed as a consular agent abroad. This gentleman had political claims on me and also on the president. I stated my case as briefly as possible to the president, who listened attentively. When I had finished, the president said:

"'Why, certainly, Charlie. Yes, yes; to be sure.' And then he dived for that book of his.

"Just as he was opening its leaves I grabbed his arm and said: 'Hold on there, general. I'll be switched if that man's name goes in that jackass book!' The president saw the humor of it, and I got my constituent appointed then and there."—Chicago Times-Herald.

What Browning Missed.

A curious example of the literary criticisms of half a century ago is recounted in an article on Robert Browning in The Temple Magazine. Browning's "Bells and Pomegranates" had just been published, and John Stuart Mill expressed his admiration of the poems and of the originality of the lessons they contained, and he wrote to the editor of Tait's Magazine, then one of the leading literary journals, asking if he might review them in the forthcoming number. The editor wrote back to say that he should always esteem it an honor and an advantage to receive a review from the pen of Mr. J. S. Mill, but unfortunately he could not insert a review of "Bells and Pomegranates," as it had been reviewed in the last number.

Mr. Browning had the curiosity to look at the last number of the magazine and there read the so called review. It was as follows: "'Bells and Pomegranates,' by Robert Browning: Balderdash." "It depended, you see," said Mr. Browning, "on what looked like the merest accident, whether the work of a new or as yet almost unknown writer should receive a eulogistic review from the pen of the first literary and philosophic critic of his day—a review which would have rendered him most powerful help exactly at the time when it was most needed—or whether he should receive only one insolent epithet from some nameless nobody."

Care of the Mouth When Ill.

When one is in good health, the mouth needs no special care beyond that of ordinary cleanliness. Indeed, the secretions of the various glands located in it act as disinfectants and keep it sweet. But few, however, are so healthy but they need to pay some attention to this organ, and when one is ill with any serious disease this becomes more and more necessary. One physician has found it advantageous to have patients suffering with fever chew occasionally some aromatic gum to stimulate the secretions of the mouth and wash out or destroy micro organisms or fermentation going on there. Another has accomplished the same end by having the patient chew some splinters of fresh pine wood. Dr. Rosenfield gives quite full directions for cleansing the mouth under such circumstances. He says that "in children and very old persons the less solid food taken the greater should be the care with the mouth. They should rinse it out several times a day with lukewarm water containing a little common salt, tincture of myrrh or eau de cologne added to stimulate secretion. When there is a tendency to bleeding of the gums or when the teeth are bad, a pinch of powdered oric acid may be twice daily rubbed in between the lips and gums. Patients with false teeth should remove them when they cannot take solid food.

"Patients with fever should have something to drink—cold water or weak lemonade—at least every hour. One must not wait till the patient asks for a drink. Besides preventing dryness, the fluid maintains the activity of the glands and the whole function of the mucous membrane. Many patients are prevented from drinking by a painful, dry and cracked condition of the lips, and therefore all feverish patients should, from the commencement of their illness, have their lips rubbed several times a day with vaseline. In protracted cases of fever the mouth may also be swabbed out with oil or greatly diluted glycerin.—New York Ledger.

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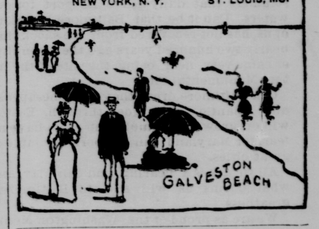
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