

machinery, the progress of science and many kindred benefits; while others add to these the refinement and educating power that it has on the advancement of man. We perceive by careful investigation that although civilization is always moving it is not always moving upward. In our civilization men become more desirous of obtaining wealth, and thereby cheat the poor; with it we have more luxury and riotous living which injures mankind.

Commerce has become greater, but is it carried on in a better way than in former times? Political power has been increased, but does present day politics insure better government?

The invention of many of the labor saving machines was considered a curse to the workingman, but it was a work of the onward civilization. It has, however, shown itself to be useful to him, in that it forces the development of the higher faculties hitherto lying dormant.

The improved means of communication that have made the whole world one afford a great opportunity to man.

The increase in occupations and all interests of life are also opportunities to man that he may either embrace to his great advantage or let pass to his ruin.

If we have intelligence and skill to regulate our lives, we may grasp these opportunities, and they will be a golden treasure store, from which we can select such parts as will best serve our community and ourselves; but if we lack ambition we must sink down confused and overcome with burdens that our present progress brings.

Civilization cannot make character, but character makes civilization. When intelligence is low and weak, and selfish impulses dominate, civilization only opens new temptations; but to the man of strong will and firm resolution it gives new and abundant means to enrich life and increase its value.

C. L. E., '05.