

# LEWISBURG CHRONICLE.

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## LEWISBURG CHRONICLE.

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## FROM THE NATIONAL ERA.

### INVOCATION.

Hark! the solemn hour of midnight, chiming on the  
distant air; [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Hushed be every wild emotion, hushed every weary  
breath, hush every quick tremor, where the loaming shades  
glide. [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
I invoke thy faithful presence, O fond Memory! at my  
come with gentle mind and bearing, star-eyed one with  
voice so low. [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Thrilling me with distant echoes from the hills of "long  
Long ago," O, land of beauty—where, with joy and child-  
ish bliss, [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
All the long, sweet days of summer, fairy footstep wan-  
tled and down "mong thornless roses," 'neath the skies  
where glowing hung [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Earth's radiant hues of promise, on whose such a  
And in tones of silver sweetness sang the syren Hope  
away. [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Beckoning with the hand mysterious to the land of "far  
Fairest in the sober azure glows the rainbow of to-day—  
Where was Hope, now Faith sits, pointing to the land of  
"endless day." [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
With thy touch so strange and wondrous, sweep thou  
clouds with thine ethereal power, and from the hour  
Wakening memories that have lumbered till this morn-  
Human heart for love that yearneth, hold sweet revel here  
[Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
O, refresh thy weary longing—hark awhile in love's pure  
songs for long, of such rare sweetness, have not lingered  
on thy chords— [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Looks so blanced with affection, language formed of such  
In this fountain, freely gushing, quench the burning  
thirst of years. [Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Fervently and love spontaneous, dew my eyes with bliss-  
ful tears; sweet Memory! I thank thee for thy precious boon  
[Chorus—] [Chorus—]  
Blessing all my being—casting on the future, light,  
Monteville Seminary, Nov. 1850. CORNELIA E.

### ORIGINAL NARRATIVE.

#### Notes of a Seven Months' Journey to CALIFORNIA.

VIA FORT SMITH, SANTA FE, GILA RIVER, AND THE TULE LAKES.

From the Private Journal kept by  
W. H. CHAMBERLIN, of Lewisburg, Pa.

#### CONTINUED.

Friday, March 23.—Green and Musser  
gone to Van Buren to purchase mules.  
The boat Pennyweight arrived to-day from  
New Orleans and discharged a cargo of  
Californians. They buried seven persons  
on the way up, who died with the Cholera.  
Purchased another stock of groceries,  
which we are busy sacking, drying and  
smoking our bacon, &c.  
Saturday, March 24.—Bought 7 mules  
at \$50 a head. Mr. Armstrong from Ras-  
ton, Pa., arrived to-day and joined our  
company. We use the sulphur water,  
although the taste is rather nauseous.  
If we do not require its medical virtues,  
it can not injure us. Our mules are in bad  
condition, which will require us to travel  
slow in the start.

Sunday, March 25.—Went to hear the  
far-famed Mr. John Newland Maffei preach.  
I knew him by reputation, but had never  
seen or heard him before. He is cer-  
tainly an eloquent speaker, but I came  
to the conclusion that he is more renowned  
for eccentricity, than either piety or inter-  
est in the future welfare of his listeners.  
He was formerly of the Methodist church,  
but is now an "outsider." Although up-  
wards of fifty years of age, he does not  
appear to be more than thirty, and I am  
inclined to think that more of his time  
is spent at the toilet, than at the Bible. There  
appears to be more regard for the day in  
camp than in town.

Monday, March 26.—Musser went to  
Van Buren after our mules. The weather  
is very fine, tempting us to start. We are  
anxious to be on our way and will get off  
as soon as possible. Purchased three  
mules at about \$50 per head. We have  
now five to each wagon, intending to purchase  
riding ponies from the Indians on our way.  
Having our mules shod, wagons repaired,  
and making every necessary preparation  
we can think of.

Tuesday, March 27.—Judging from the  
amount of goods sold to the emigrants at  
this place, and the prices realized, the self-  
interested citizens of Fort Smith could well  
afford to publish to the world the many  
advantages (no doubt exaggerated) this  
place has, as a starting point, for an over-  
land journey to California. The gamblers  
are fleeing many persons, who will be  
obliged to return home and take a new  
start. We disposed of our provision chest  
and exchanged our tent for a larger and  
more convenient one; purchased saddles,  
extra mule shoes, pickets, &c.  
Wednesday, March 28.—Commenced  
raining this morning; packed our wagons,  
harnessed up our gun-looking mules, and  
rolled out about 3 o'clock this afternoon.  
Our teams moved off finely; the road very  
bad; continued raining. Encamped on a  
small run; no grass; fed our animals

upon corn, which we brought with us. We  
use our camp chest as a table; we have an  
abundance of blankets, with which we make  
ourselves comfortable. After enjoying our  
humble supper of coffee, bacon and biscuit,  
we retired to rest, pretty well pleased with  
this our first day's journey, and were lulled  
to sleep by the hooting of owls and the  
howling of wolves. We appointed a guard  
which is to be kept up throughout the  
night. Distance, 6 miles.

Thursday, March 29.—Traveled over a  
very bad road, the wheels sometimes sink-  
ing to the axles, but our mules did not  
flinch. Ferried over Poto river, a sluggish  
stream about 40 yards wide. Passed thro'  
the "Choctaw Agency," a great many  
Indians and squaws were lounging about  
the place; some of them have pretty com-  
fortable cabins, and cultivate a few acres  
of ground. They are very fond of dress;  
some of the squaws were clad in calicoes  
of the most gaudy colors. Some of them  
had "papooses" lashed to a wicker frame,  
swung upon their backs; in this way they  
carry them for a whole day, not even loos-  
ing them when they suckle, and the little  
"brats" never murmur. Liquor is not  
allowed to be sold in the Nation; this is a  
law of their own, and a very sensible one.  
Indeed, it would be an example worthy of  
imitation by our enlightened States. They  
raise a great many horses, cattle, hogs,  
poultry, &c. There is a detachment of  
Government soldiers in advance of us, sur-  
veying a new route for emigrants on the  
south side of the Canadian river to the  
plains or "great American Desert," thence  
to Santa Fe, on the same side of the  
river. Capt. R. B. Marcy, with a detach-  
ment of U.S. Troops, is to leave Fort Smith  
in a few days, as an escort to the company  
of emigrants from that place. He is to  
travel by this new route. Strange that  
persons living upon the borders or frontier  
of the Fort Smith people do, accustomed to  
dealing with the Indians, require an escort  
of troops, while many of us from the old  
States, who never saw an Indian, are obliged  
to fight and cut our own way! Senator  
Borland, of Ark., whose influence brought  
all this about, must be a "cute old un."

When we came to where the new road  
struck off from the old one, we were influ-  
enced to take the former, by a man sta-  
tioned there for the purpose. We were the  
first that traversed it, except the military  
detachment, which consists of two wagons  
and 25 men, who are but a few miles ahead  
of us—and ahead of them, a wilderness of  
250 miles! They are guided by the old  
Delaware Indian trail, which runs about  
20 degrees S. of W. to the edge of the  
plains. We crossed a prairie a few miles  
in width; the ground is very soft; once  
we mired down, and it was only by un-  
loading, double-teaming, and putting our  
shoulders to the wheel, that we succeeded  
in getting the wagon out. Obligated to en-  
camp on the prairie, but found enough  
wood and water to answer our purposes.  
Saw a great many grouse, and prairie  
snipe to-day; but, either because they  
were too wild, or we inexperienced in the  
art, did not succeed in killing any of them.  
Distance, 22 miles—28.

Friday, March 30.—Started early. Soon  
found the road almost impassible; this  
portion of prairie had been lately burned  
over, which made it much worse. Mired  
both wagons and mules, very frequently,  
and it required all our strength, ingenuity,  
and courage, to get them out. We almost  
despaired getting through, for scarcely  
would we get them out, until they were in  
again. Came up with the troops this eve-  
ning, and encamped with them in a beauti-  
ful spot on the border of a small prairie,  
thro' which ran a brook of clear, delicious  
water. The air was perfumed by a variety  
of shrubbery that grew along its banks,  
now in full bloom. Saw a few deer, at a  
distance to-day. Out of corn for our  
mules, and the grass too short to afford  
them much nourishment. Very much  
fatigued by the day's labor, and turned in  
early. Distance, 5 miles—33.

Saturday, March 31.—Became acquaint-  
ed with Lieuts. Dent and Updegraff—both  
apparently clever fellows. Dent has a  
brother in California. Almost worn out,  
"necessity is the mother of invention," and  
we do not find ourselves in so great a dil-  
emma, when our teams bog down, as we did  
at first, having learned to extricate them  
with less difficulty. Again encamped on  
a small stream, on the skirts of a "minu-  
ature prairie." This evening, Howard  
and myself each mounted a mule, and  
started in search of corn for our suffering  
animals; after following a trail about  
three miles, we came to a cabin of an In-  
dian. He at first said he had none, but  
we knew by the stalks in his patch that he  
was lying; we were determined to have it,  
which he saw and gave in. We got as  
much as our animals could carry, for \$1  
per 100 ears. In the meantime, the old  
squaw was busily engaged dissecting a  
fine wild turkey, which she did without  
much ceremony, using her hands instead

of a knife. Night overtook us, and it was  
with difficulty we found our way back to  
camp, which we reached in time to partake  
of a hearty though simple supper. Dis-  
tance, 4 miles—37.

Sunday, April 1.—Did not move camp.  
If ever the Sabbath was required as a day  
of "rest," this was, as well for our animals  
as selves; but idleness in camp becomes  
monotony, and as we could not endure  
that, some of us went gunning, and  
others fishing. I shot several large  
fox squirrels, others caught some small  
fish, resembling what we call "sun-fish."  
Our game made us a very palatable supper.  
The troops moved on this morning. The  
Sabbath is not observed in the army.

We have crossed several mountains and  
found abundance of iron ore, and indica-  
tions of coal. The soil in the valleys  
and prairies is undoubtedly good, judging  
from the luxuriant growth of grass in sea-  
son. The Indians with their rude imple-  
ments of cultivating the ground, raise fine  
crops of corn, although, from their natu-  
ral idleness or distaste for labor, they seldom  
grow more than they require for their own  
sustenance. While out gunning, strolling  
along an Indian trail, I almost trod upon a  
very large rattlesnake, stretched across the  
path; he commenced making music for me  
in a high tone, but I silenced it by a bullet  
through his pate. Saw a number of deer,  
but could not get within shooting distance  
of them. The water in this neighborhood  
has a milky appearance.

A number of Indians and squaws visited  
us to-day, begging tobacco, bread, &c.  
They are on their way to the Agency, to  
traffic, and encamped near us. The squaws  
imitate the men in riding, by sitting  
astride the animal.

Monday, April 2.—Cloudy, indicating  
rain; the road somewhat better. Purchased  
some more corn, at \$1 per bushel. Traveled  
over mountains and strips of prairie,  
the scenery varied and beautiful. Met an  
American, in company with some Indians;  
they had been out on a hunting excursion.  
The American had six fine wild turkeys  
suspended from his saddle. He had lived  
with the Indians a number of years, and  
adopted their dress and customs; he was  
an intelligent man, and said that he had  
been educated at one of the best literary  
institutions in the States, and received his  
diploma. What induced him to forsake  
civilized society and dwell among savages,  
he did not inform us; he certainly has a  
romantic fancy. The military ahead of us  
had very imprudently set the prairie on fire;  
it was rushing towards us, consuming ev-  
erything before it; we could not retreat,  
but, halting our teams, some of us went  
ahead, encountered it at the edge of the  
woods, and after a severe effort, succeeded  
in arresting its progress in one spot, wide  
enough for our wagons to pass through,  
which they did in safety. It was a fearful  
sight, and we were lucky in escaping the  
devouring flames so easily. We encamped  
in the skirt of a woods, bordering on a prairie,  
where we found a small pool of almost  
stagnant water. Purchased fowls, sweet  
potatoes, and pea nuts, of some Indians,  
who had followed us all afternoon for the  
purpose of trading. The woods and  
prairies on fire all around our camp. Dis-  
tance, 12 miles—49.

Tuesday, April 3.—After the wagons  
started this morning, I rambled through the  
woods and shot a fine mess of pigeons and  
partridges, and had a long tramp before I  
again overtook the company. Met an old  
Indian of whom we purchased some eggs,  
or "chickens," as they call them in broken  
English. The Choctaws are very dark  
colored. A good pony can be purchased of  
them for \$5; very thoughtlessly, I did not  
purchase one, for while we were making  
such short stages, I preferred walking, and  
gunning occasionally, to taking care of an  
extra animal. (I had reason, afterwards,  
for repenting this negligence.) The road  
to-day was very good, in comparison with  
what we have passed over, except crossing  
the San-Boy river, a stream 10 yards wide,  
and pretty deep. The hills here abound  
in iron ore. Encamped on Cooper's creek  
this evening. The grass is about three or  
four inches high, and affords indifferent  
pasture for our stock. Some of the land-  
scape scenery is truly fine, being a con-  
stant succession of hills, valleys, woodland,  
and prairies, the last of which are now  
clothed in green interspersed with innum-  
erable wild flowers, of every variety and  
hue. Occasionally our table is furnished  
with a dish of "greens" or wild onions.  
The old Indian trail, in many places, is not  
more than a foot wide, by which thousands  
pass yearly on their way to the settlements  
to trade. The timber in this country,  
which is principally oak, is rather scrubby.  
Distance, 13 miles—61.

Wednesday, April 4.—In the course of  
the day, we crossed a high ridge, very dif-  
ficult of ascent and descent. Overtook the  
Government train, and encamped on a  
small stream of good water. I shot a very  
large hare, which made us an excellent  
supper and breakfast. Purchased some

corn of an Indian by the way, and found  
we could get as much for 3 or 4 dimes, as  
for a dollar, they preferring small change,  
and at the same time we gave them full  
value for their grain. They generally treat  
us very civilly, and never attempt to pilfer  
even the most trifling article. Distance, 9  
miles—70.

Thursday, April 5.—Started early, but  
owing to the bad state of the road we made  
but little progress, crossing many deep  
ravines, and encamped early. Rain this  
evening, but our tent turns water, and we  
are quite comfortable. I shot 8 gray squir-  
rels as we traveled along to-day, which fur-  
nished a very dryish this evening. Distance,  
6 miles—76.

Friday, April 6.—In to-day's journey,  
we crossed a beautiful prairie, about 8  
miles in width, and over a very difficult  
mountain. A deep and apparently impos-  
sible ravine was now before us; this we  
crossed with less trouble than we antici-  
pated, but not without a hard struggle on  
the part of our teams, which we doubled. A  
very heavy thunder shower now fell upon  
us, wetting us completely. Shortly after-  
wards, we reached the bank of Gaines'  
creek. This, after another hard siege, we  
forded, and encamped on the opposite bank  
about noon. The rain continued falling in  
torrents all day and night. We had not  
of encamping on the other side, but luckily  
for us we did not, for immediately after  
we crossed it commenced rising, and was  
soon full, the banks at least 30 feet high.  
There is a small mongrel settlement near  
us, consisting of half-breeds, Indians, and  
Negroes, which is reported as a place in-  
fested with thieves and robbers. The spot  
where we are encamped, although the best  
we can find, is a perfect mud hole. Dis-  
tance, 11 miles—87.

Saturday, April 7.—Heavy showers  
continued falling, during the night, and it  
has not ceased this morning. The military  
are encamped on the other side, where  
they must remain until the water falls.  
About noon we struck our tent, traveled  
about three miles, and encamped on ano-  
ther stream, so swollen as to be impassible.  
There is a mess of Texans on the opposite  
bank, who have been waiting here several  
days for company. They had left Fort  
Smith several weeks ago, and followed the  
Indian trail thus far. They scarcely knew  
where they were going, but I suppose had  
heard of California, knew it was westward,  
and were pushing forward in that direction.  
Distance, 3 miles—90.

Sunday, April 8.—On "watch" until 1  
o'clock this morning. Stormed all night,  
making it impossible to travel or do anything  
else; we are almost swamped in mud and  
water, and are obliged to lay in our tents.

Monday, April 9.—Rained all night,  
cleared off this morning. Our mules wan-  
dered off during the night, but found them  
this afternoon; unable to proceed on ac-  
count of the soft state of the earth. Busy  
drying bedclothes, repairing wagons, &c.

Tuesday, April 10.—Remained in camp  
for reasons given yesterday, engaged air-  
ing our provisions, washing clothes, &c.  
The large flat stones, on the bank of the  
stream, answer admirably, instead of a  
wash machine, and the appearance of our  
line, when "hung up to dry," would  
reflect honor upon a washwoman skilled in  
the art. Endeavored to catch some of the  
small fish, that appear to abound in the  
stream, but with little success. Howard  
fired at a deer yesterday but without effect.  
Quarrelling amongst the soldiers, and pun-  
ished accordingly—Whiskey the cause.

Wednesday, April 11.—Our teams  
were again under way this morning, and  
crossed the stream a short distance above.  
The prairies and hills are very soft, but  
we got along tolerably well. The army kept  
along the side of the mountain, but after  
upsetting both wagons, they concluded to  
come back to the trail, which we had not  
left. Stopped at 4 o'clock. We have  
been in the Chickasaw Indian country  
since leaving Gaines creek. They are  
fairer in complexion than the Choctaws;  
they grow some corn and vegetables.  
Distance, 10 miles—100.

Thursday, April 12.—Made an early  
start; road very bad; frequently had to  
take the axe and cut out a new one, to  
avoid swampy places. About 11 o'clock  
we overtook the military, who were badly  
bogged, and shortly afterwards encamped,  
having apparently got to our journey's end;  
swamps, creeks and mountains on all sides.  
What we will do next, is yet to be deter-  
mined; some exploring will have to be done.  
While washing the other day, the sun  
burnt my arms severely; they are now  
swollen and very painful. Raining to-day;  
very cold and unpleasant. If I had been  
told before starting, that we could pass  
over such a country and roads, I would  
not have believed it; but perseverance ac-  
complishes wonders. Our mules continued  
to "tug" us thro' all opposition, and are  
improving, notwithstanding the hard usage.  
Our wagons have held together, in places  
where I expected them to be "mashed into

pi." We are all in good health and spirits;  
our only cause for complaint is that we  
do not get along faster towards our place  
of destination. Walking all day gives us  
a keen relish for our frugal fare, which we  
enjoy while seated around our camp-chest.  
Many a joke is cracked, and many an anec-  
dote of by-gone days is related. We al-  
most forget that we have heretofore lived  
in a civilized country and enjoyed the good  
things of the world. Nearly every day we  
grace our table with a dish of game, which  
takes the place of bacon, and though not  
accompanied with the "fixin'" generally  
used in cooking, it is not to be sneezed at.  
We find our India rubber coats, caps, beds,  
&c., very useful in case of rain, and the  
ground is constantly damp. Carrying an  
extra supply of clothing is an absurd idea,  
and I never would do it again. We have  
not a towing piece in the company for  
shooting small game, which we regret very  
much.

Friday, April 13.—Remained in camp  
to-day. Another heavy thunder shower.  
From all appearances, we will not reach  
"Choteau" for weeks to come. We are  
within a few hundred yards of Coal  
Creek, which we will be obliged to cross.  
It is much swollen, and the water very  
cold. Another company has overtaken us,  
consisting of six tailors, lacking three of the  
complement necessary to "make a man,"  
which is no joke in this instance, for, from  
their outward appearances, they are cer-  
tainly "out of their element." They and  
the Texans crossed the creek to-day.  
It was a foolish and unnecessary under-  
taking, but they finally succeeded, after wet-  
ting all their baggage, and being obliged to  
swim.

Saturday, April 14.—We have con-  
cluded to wait until the creek falls, which  
is yet impassible. A very sudden change  
in the weather, to cold. Hail and rain this  
afternoon, very disagreeable.

Sunday, April 15.—Snow fell to the  
depth of three inches last night; the ther-  
mometer is down to 26° this morning at  
sunrise, which is something uncommon for  
this latitude, at this season of the year. It  
has rained almost continually since this  
month came in, and it is a fortunate cir-  
cumstance that we have a water proof  
tent and clothing. The grass is several  
inches high, the trees are in leaf, flowers  
in bloom, and everything indicates approach-  
ing summer. "Dame Nature" has cer-  
tainly assumed a dress this morning that  
ill becomes her. Emigrants should never  
leave the frontier, before the first of May;  
they only expose themselves to the inclem-  
ency of the weather, and use up their ani-  
mals; indeed a great deal of rain may be  
expected after that date.

Monday, April 16.—Weather settled,  
with prospects of its continuance, at least  
for a short time. Musser and myself bu-  
sied ourselves at altering and fitting our  
harness, which have been too large for our  
mules. Lieutenants Dent and Updegraff  
visit our camp frequently, to discuss polit-  
ics, and the general topics of the day.  
Lieut. Dent is a graduate of West Point  
Military Academy, and Lieut. Updegraff  
was promoted from the ranks. Both served  
in Mexico during the war, and bear the  
evidence upon their persons.

Tuesday, April 17.—Making prepara-  
tions to cross the creek this morning. We  
were obliged to "corduroy" the banks on  
both sides, being perfect swamps. "Hauled  
out" about 9 o'clock, and succeeded in  
crossing, with a great deal of difficulty.  
Passed through a canebrake. Came across  
an Indian settlement, and purchased some  
corn of "Mr. Tecumseh." Encamped  
on the border of a small prairie, having  
made but little headway. Our road was  
through a continued swamp, and we fre-  
quently bogged down. After such a day's  
work as this, our clothes present a sad  
appearance, for we can not avoid the mud.  
We are all very much fatigued, need rest,  
and will "turn in" early. Distance, 4  
miles—104.

Wednesday, April 18.—Made an early  
start, and crossed what we supposed to be  
Cedar Creek. The military employed two  
Indians this morning to guide them. We  
traveled over some very rough mountains,  
cutting our own road the greater part of  
the day; and when we at last emerged  
from the woods, a prairie lay before us, with  
all the beauty in which Nature has arrayed  
these "natural fields" of the west. On the  
edge of this, we pitched our tents about 3  
o'clock in the afternoon. A sight of these  
"spots" has an amazing effect upon our  
spirits, the timber-land being more boggy,  
besides which, shouldering the axe and  
opening our way is not light work. This  
evening, several men with "pack animals"  
encamped with us, who had been but four  
days out from Fort Smith! Of course, we  
"scratched our heads," and wished we had  
our "traps" similarly arranged. Distance,  
10 miles—114.

Thursday, April 19.—Under way at 7  
o'clock; crossed a small prairie, and found  
ourselves at the foot of a high and very  
steep mountain, and "the military" at a

stand—the Indian guide said there was no  
way but to cross the mountain, and they  
were afraid to undertake it. Armstrong  
and myself took the axe, and in a short  
time cut a road to the top, winding around  
to make the ascent more gradual. Up this,  
the mules finally succeeded in dragging the  
wagons, assisted by "all hands." But,  
strange to tell, we had not proceeded far,  
on the very back-bone of the ridge, until  
we were badly mired down. The descent  
at the farther end was also very rough and  
difficult, but at the foot we found a small,  
clear stream, on the bank of which we  
encamped about 4 o'clock. Caught a fine  
mess of sun-fish for supper. To-day, Lieut.  
Dent received an express from Capt.  
Marcy, with information that he was on  
the road, but traveling under ground a  
great portion of the time. The man who  
brought the news (to hear him tell the  
story) was drowned several times, started  
to death, and killed by the Indians as often.  
He was indeed the picture of a "used-up  
man." He must have been "awfully scared,"  
but he stowed away the pork and  
beans, when they were passed around, as  
though nothing had happened.

[To be continued.]

### The Last Half Century.

By all methods of calculation, with the  
close of the present year the first half of our  
Nineteenth Century will terminate. Tho'  
indicated by no signs in the heavens, it  
marks the most august and impressive  
epoch known to the experience of the liv-  
ing generation, and concludes a period as  
full of grandeur and magnificence as any  
recorded in the book of time. Fifty years  
in this brief life of ours, is a long interval  
at any stage of the world's progress. It  
includes the birth, the deeds, and the  
changes of countless thinking, suffering,  
struggling souls, all of whom have contrib-  
uted their part to the great sum of achieve-  
ments which make up the annals of the  
race. But into what space of equal length  
have been crowded such teeming events?  
What other half century has swelled with  
such marvelous deeds, such stupendous  
changes, such mighty throes of intellect  
and feeling, such reaches of discovery,  
and enlargement of ideas, and improve-  
ment and progress, as that which, from  
the height of his advanced position, the  
eye now looks back upon! Making all  
allowance for the magnitude and impress-  
iveness which events acquire by their  
proximity, and by any scale of admeasure-  
ment, there is no other period of like di-  
mensions in which the race has taken such  
colossal steps of progress, and stretched  
out so sublime a roll of achievement. If  
the whole teeming era could be placed before  
the mind, and the eye could take in one  
sweep the gigantic outline of changes and  
events which the history of this period  
records, no epic of human genius or spec-  
tacle of nature could surpass the grandeur  
and beauty of the idea it would convey.  
The world has swept along at a vastly  
accelerated rate, as if propelled by some  
of the mighty powers to which it has given  
birth; and the mind that pauses and re-  
calls even the little segment of its own ob-  
servation and experience, can not suppress  
its wonder and awe at the grandeur of the  
scale on which history has been accumulat-  
ing her stores, and Providence working  
out its mighty issues.

Our territorial dimensions have extended  
from the Mississippi to the Pacific, and  
enlarged from an area of a million of  
square miles to three millions and a quarter.  
Fifteen States, some of them of extraor-  
dinary capacity, have been added to our  
National confederacy; nine of our chief  
magistrates, and thirty-nine of the origi-  
nal signers of our Declaration, have died;  
our National Legislature has increased from  
one hundred and seven Representatives to  
two hundred and thirty; our popula-  
tion from about five millions to probab-  
ly twenty-three and a half millions. In  
twelve of the free States, complete systems  
of common schools have been established,  
some furnishing competent education in  
every child without cost, and, in all, plac-  
ing the means of education within the  
reach of the poorest. In several of the  
other States, provision has been made,  
more or less extensively, for the young.  
Colleges and higher schools have kept  
equal pace. The number of collegiate in-  
stitutions has increased from twenty-five  
to one hundred and twenty, greatly elevat-  
ing also the standard of requirement and  
study. During this period, forty-two The-  
ological Seminaries have been erected,  
thirty-seven Medical schools, twelve Law  
schools, and the Academy at West Point.

But this increase of educational fac-  
ilities, by no means measures the intellec-  
tual activity awakened by other means.  
The increase of periodical publications  
within the fifty years, has been well nigh  
astounding. In 1800, there were scarcely  
more than 200 newspapers in the Union;  
at the present time, there can hardly be  
counted less than 2000. Religious newspa-  
pers have had their whole history in this inter-  
val—the Boston Recorder having been

commenced in 1816; and Reviews and  
Magazines have multiplied in equal  
proportion. Sabbath schools, now so widely  
extended, and hallowing every valley and  
glen of our whole country, had their be-  
ginning within the half century—the New  
York Union having been formed in 1817,  
the American Union in 1824, and the  
Massachusetts Society in 1839. Within  
that period, also, most of those forms of  
benevolence designed to meliorate the suf-  
ferings of the blind, the insane, the deaf  
and dumb, and the idiotic, have had their  
birth. The Hartford Asylum for the  
Deaf and Dumb was opened, under the  
care of Mr. Gallaudet, in 1817; the New-  
York Institution in 1818, and since that  
time eighteen have been opened, and three  
institutions for the blind, and eighteen in-  
stitutions for the insane, many of them  
amply endowed and of high character.

Our young country has borne no in-  
considerable part in that wonderful im-  
pulse given to Science and Discovery,  
which makes so signal a mark upon the  
annals of the half century. The contri-  
butions made in this country, to Astronomi-  
cal discovery—to the growth, consistency  
and value of Geology, whose birth lies  
within our period, by the researches of  
Silliman, and Hitchcock, and the wise and  
liberal explorations authorized by the States,  
to Chemistry, by the labors of Hare, Silli-  
man, Henry and others, and by the great  
invention of Morse, of the Magnetic Tele-  
graph, its rapid extension over the country,  
and its subordination to the uses of com-  
merce—to Botany, by the observation and  
zeal of Nuttall, Eaton, Eliot, Bigelow, and  
Torrey—to Zoology by the labors of Wil-  
son, and the more elaborate and splendid  
researches and descriptions of Audubon—  
to Mathematical science, and to other of  
the great departments of human knowledge  
—the great part borne in the practical dif-  
fusion of the sciences, by means of skillful  
school-books and apparatus, and the gen-  
eral incorporation of them into the course  
of education by our colleges—all these  
evidences of the progress of science among  
us are not only creditable, but highly dis-  
tinctive of the age.

In the progress of the Arts, and the ac-  
cumulation of wealth, material resources,  
and increase of internal improvements, the  
advance has been still more striking.  
Eighteen canals, some of them among the  
largest and most costly in the world, have  
been constructed. Steamboats were un-  
known prior to our era—Fulton making  
his first trip to Albany in 1807, in thirty-  
two hours. The tonnage now, of the  
steamboats on our waters, is not less than  
260,000 tons, and the aggregate value of  
them over eighteen millions. Railroads,  
too, are among the triumphs of the era,  
the first one being finished in 1827. In  
eighteen years, from 1830 to 1848, over  
five thousand miles of railroad were fin-  
ished, at an expense of one hundred and  
twenty millions. Since then, the progress  
has not been less; and now among the  
familiar topics of thought and expectation,  
is the completion of a railroad to the  
Pacific.

But there is no element of progress more  
conspicuous than that exhibited during the  
half-century, in the schemes and achieve-  
ments of Christian benevolence. It has  
been the great era of missions, of voluntary  
and associated benevolence, of social and  
political reform, of revivals, and the most  
cheering diffusion of the principles of free-  
dom and religion. American Missions  
have written all their honorable and beau-  
tiful history during this period. In 1810,  
the American Board came into being—the  
spring of the missionary movement in this  
country—with an income of \$999, now  
increased to more than a quarter of a mil-  
lion. Since then, at least six other distinct  
missionary associations have been formed,  
which are made the medium of annual do-  
nations for the spread of the gospel,  
amounting to not less than six hundred  
and fifty thousand dollars. Home Missions  
have had their chief development and history,  
if not their origin in this period. The  
American Home Missionary Society was  
formed by the incorporation of several  
local associations, in 1826, having an in-  
come of \$26,000, which now reaches  
about \$160,000. Other societies of the  
kind have also multiplied both in numbers  
and resources, till almost every religious  
denomination has its scheme. Bible So-  
cieties, also, are the product of our event-  
ful era; the American Bible Society being  
formed in 1816, enlarging from year to  
year its resources, till they now exceed  
the annual income of a quarter of a million.  
Tract Societies had their first origin in  
1807; the New-England Society was  
formed in 1814, and the American Tract  
Society in 1826, which from small begin-  
nings, now receives an income upwards of  
\$300,000 a year. Societies for the bene-  
fit of seamen, with their useful Homes,  
beneficial reforms, and increasing patron-  
age; societies for the benefit of prisoners,  
the improvement of prisons, the reform of  
the whole system of penal inflictions, and