CIVILIZATION.

The free air of the new world, the independent thought upon every question, and the political equality of all men conduced to break down the distinctions of rank and dress that were at first established (p. 93). This tendency early became a source of anxiety to the colonial legislator. In 1640, it was ordered that as "divers Persons of severall Ranks are obsearved still to exceede" in their apparel, "the Constables of every towne within their Libertyes shall observe and take notice of any particular Person or Persons within their severall Lymits, and all such as they judge to exceede their condition and Rank therein, they shall present and warn to appear at the particular Court".

These "sumptuary laws" were not a dead letter, for we read of one "Alice Flynt" who was cited before the court and required to show that she was worth the two hundred pounds required to entitle her to wear a silk hood. After Independence, social changes went on rapidly. The title "Master" came to be confined to holders of slaves, while "Mr.", once a sure sign of rank, was applied to every male in the land, and to omit it, when speaking of great men, became a mark of distinction. So rapidly did the new ideas spread, that when La Fayette visited America the second time, he asked with astonishment, "Where are the common people?" He saw only crowds of well-dressed citizens, but no yeomen, mechanics, merchants, and servants—the four ranks below that of gentleman that were to be distinctly observed at the time of his first visit.

The Laborer, though he had secured social and political privileges a hundred years ago, could obtain far fewer comforts than he can to-day. His house had neither paint nor glass windows. Within, it was low and dingy. The floor knew no carpets. The kitchen had no stove, or lamp, or coal, or matches. There was no glass or crockery ware on his table, but he ate his homely fare from a wooden platter. Fresh meat was a rarity. All the staples of life were expensive to one who received only two shillings per day. Leather breeches and apron, a coarse flannel jacket, and heavy cow-hide shoes were the best his wardrobe could afford.

Imprisonment for debt was common. The poor man, just recovering from a long sickness, was liable to be arrested for the payment of the little bills incurred during his illness, and thrust into prison among the vilest offenders.

The Schools, even within the memory of many persons now living, were far inferior in equipment and methods to those of our day. The text-books were few and coarsely executed. In early times, the only reading-books were the Bible, the Psalter, and the New England Speller. After the Revolution, the Columbian Orator—filled with patriotic selections—attained a great celebrity. When Webster's American Spelling Book was issued about 1784, it gradually came into general use. Murray's Grammar and Daboll's Arithmetic were the standards for half a century. The ordinary geography was in two volumes—one containing the maps and the other the text. Morse invented (1839) a process of engraving whereby the maps could be struck off with the text, on a common printing press. In a single year, 100,000 copies of his New Geography went into use. Writing-books were usually home-made from foolscap, and ruled by the pupil with lead plummets of his own manufacture. Slate pencils were, also, whittled out by the boys from soft clay-stones. Quill-pens were used, and their making constituted no small part of a teacher's task. Wall-maps, charts, blackboards, globes, etc., came in only slowly as education advanced.

The development of the country was especially marked about the middle of this century. The immigration from Ireland, probably induced chiefly by the famine of 1847 in that island, then began, and crowds of foreign workmen aided in building railroads and digging canals, while they flocked into the mills and manufactories. The native operatives thrown out of employment, turned to the West. The discovery of gold in California, also, led thither a vast number from the Eastern States. The multiplication of railroads, affording a better market and higher prices, rendered farming profitable in the great Mississippi valley, and new States were settled with unexampled rapidity. Commerce flourished, and American clippers were famous for their speed. With increasing prosperity, knowledge spread apace. Books and papers multiplied. Schools and colleges were founded. The lyceums, through which courses of lectures by distinguished men were given in almost every town and village, became an important factor in imparting to the people valuable instruction upon political, scientific, and literary topics.

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY.

REFERENCES FOR READING.

Lossing's Field Book of the War of 1812.—*Lewis and Clarke's Journal.*—*Mackenzie's Life of Paul Jones.*—*Parton's Life of Jackson; also of Aaron Burr.*—*Cooper's History of the American Navy.*—*Irving's Astoria.*—*Powell's Life of Taylor.*—*Fremont's Explorations.*—*Benton's* 30 *Years View of Public Affairs.*—*Street and Reed's Osceola* (*Poem*).—*Ripley's War with Mexico.*—*Hull's Military and Civil Life.*—*Parker's Historic Americans.*—*Lossing's Eminent Americans.*—*McPherson's Political History of the United States.*—*Tome's Battles of America by Sea and Land.*—*Lowell's Bigelow Papers.*—*Giddings' Exiles of Florida.*—*Jay's Mexican War.*—*Dawson's American Battle-fields.*—"*The Mississippi Scheme*" *in Mackay's Popular Delusions.*—*Mrs. John Adams' Correspondence.*—*Headley's Second War with England.*—*Whittier's Angels of Buena Vista* (*Poetry*).—*Randall's and Tucker's Lives of Jefferson.*—*Griswold's Court of Washington.*—*Clarke's Campaign of* 1812.—*Ingersoll's Second War with Great Britain.*—*Wilson's Sketches of Illustrious Soldiers.*—*The* "*American Statesmen*" *Series* (*a Political Library of great value*).

EPOCH IV. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATES.

1. Washington's Administration. (1789–'97.)
   1. Inauguration.
   2. Difficulties of the New Government.
   3. Domestic Affairs.
      1. Finances.
      2. Whiskey Rebellion.
      3. Indian Wars.
   4. Foreign Affairs.
      1. England.
      2. Spain and Algiers.
      3. France.
   5. Political Parties.
2. John Adams' Administration. (1797–1801.)
   1. Domestic Affairs.
      1. Alien and Sedition Laws.
      2. Effects.
   2. Foreign Affairs.
   3. Political Parties.
3. Jefferson's Administration. (1801–'9.)
   1. Character of Jefferson.
   2. Domestic Affairs.
      1. Purchase of Louisiana.
      2. Aaron Burr.
      3. Fulton's Steamboat.
   3. Foreign Affairs.
      1. War with Tripoli.
      2. England and France.
      3. Embargo Act.
   4. Political Parties.
4. Madison's Administration. (1809–'17.)
   1. Domestic Affairs.
   2. Foreign Affairs—War with Great Britain.
      1. Events of 1812.
      2. Events of 1813.
      3. Events of 1814.
      4. Peace.
      5. Battle of New Orleans.
      6. Results of War.
   3. Political Parties.
5. Monroe's Administration. (1817–'25.)
   1. "Era of Good Feeling."
   2. Domestic Affairs.
      1. Missouri Compromise.
      2. La Fayette's Visit.
   3. Foreign Affairs.
      1. Florida.
      2. Monroe Doctrine.
   4. Political Parties.
6. John Quincy Adams' Administration. (1825–'29.)
   1. Character of Adams.
   2. Prosperity of Country.
   3. Protective Tariff—"American System."
7. Jackson's Administration. (1829–'37.)
   1. Character of Jackson.
   2. Domestic Affairs.
      1. Nullification.
      2. Bank of United States.
      3. Speculations.
      4. Indian Troubles.
   3. Foreign Affairs.
   4. Political Parties.
8. Van Buren's Administration. (1837–'41.)
   1. Domestic Affairs.
   2. Foreign Affairs.
   3. Political Parties.
9. Harrison and Tyler's Administration. (1841–'45.)
   1. Harrison's Death.
   2. Domestic Affairs.
      1. United States Bank.
      2. Suffrage Difficulties.
      3. Anti-Rent Difficulties.
      4. The Mormons.
      5. Magnetic Telegraph.
   3. Foreign Affairs.
      1. Annexation of Texas.
      2. North-west Boundary.
   4. Political Parties.
10. Polk's Administration. (1845–'49.)
    1. Foreign Affairs—War with Mexico. (1846–'47.)
       1. General Taylor's Army.
       2. General Kearney's Army.
       3. General Scott's Army.
       4. Peace.
    2. Domestic Affairs.
       1. Wilmot Proviso.
       2. Discovery of Gold in California.
    3. Political Parties.
11. Taylor and Fillmore's Administration. (1849–'53.)
    1. Taylor's Death.
    2. Domestic Affairs.
       1. Slavery.
       2. Compromise of 1850.
    3. Foreign Affairs.
    4. Political Parties.
12. Pierce's Administration. (1853–'57.)
    1. Domestic Affairs.
       1. Kansas-Nebraska Bill.
       2. Border Warfare.
    2. Foreign Affairs.
       1. Mexico.
       2. Japan.
    3. Political Parties.
13. Buchanan's Administration. (1857–'61.)
    1. Domestic Affairs.
       1. Dred-Scott Decision.
       2. Fugitive Slave Law.
       3. John Brown.
    2. Political Parties.
    3. South Secedes.
    4. Attack on Fort Sumter.
14. Names of States admitted during the Fourth Epoch.