VII. THE TESTING OF AMERICAN NATIONALITY (1850-1865)

External characteristics of American society.

Types of social life in North and South and West (manners, customs, dress, diet, speech), Social stratification.

The new states. Expansion of national boundaries. "Manifest Destiny" as an ideal.

Growth of domestic conveniences. Invention and perfection of sewing machine, 1846-54. American machine-made watches, 1850.

Inventions important to social well-being. Introduction of electric fire alarm in Boston (1852) and other cities. Discovery of anaesthetics for use in operations, 1844, 1846. Introduction of instantaneous photography, 1851

Re
Introduction of letter postage to three cents, 1850.

Popular recreation, sports and amusements.

Flood-tide of German and Irish immigration, 1848-60. Areas of distribution. Social, cultural and political consequences.

Work-a-day world.

Era of great prosperity. California gold and its consequences to the nation.

New epoch in American agriculture. Common use of practical mower and reaper after 1850. Success of American farm machines at London World's Fair, 1851. Other mechanical improvements. Commercial fertilizer introduced into the United States. Agitation for free homestead legislation; and victory of 1862.

State of cotton culture. Difficulties of an inelastic labor supply. "Cotton is King."

Progress of manufacturing. Sweat-shop and ready-made clothing. McKay machine and factory-made shoes. Great advance in iron manufacture. Goodyear's discovery of vulcanized rubber, 1844, and manufacture of water-proof rubber goods.

Revival of national craft organizations. Printers in 1850, hat makers in 1854, iron workers in 1859, etc.

Golden age of American merchant marine. Era of clipper ships. Effects of Civil War on American shipping.

Panic of 1857.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Transportation.

Extension of railroads into South Atlantic states, and Westward to Mississippi and Missouri rivers. State subsidies and land grants to railroads after 1850.

Establishment of Wells-Fargo & Company express service in 1852.

Intellectual interests.

Extension and improvement of public school system (evening schools, co-education, expansion of curriculum). Oswego movement in education (American Pestalëzzianism). Founding of National Education Association, 1857.

New era in journalism. Newspapers as pulpits for great editors. Contrast between North and South. Mechanical improvements of printing press by Hoe, Craske, Bullock. Newspaper enterprise and co-operation during Civil War

Lyceum at its height. Vehicle for popular education and reform agitation. Dies out during Civil War.

American literature. Middle period of Longfellow, 1845-60. Lowell as prose writer and editor of Atlantic Monthly. The Atlantic Monthly group. Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass (1855) and his war poems. Hawthorne's later novels, Thoreau's creative period. Writers of popular fiction such as Trowbridge, Cooke, Alcott, et al.

New historians: Motley, Parkman.

Founding of great national magazines: Harper's Monthly, 1850; Putnam's, 1853; Harper's Weekly, 1856; Atlantic Monthly, 1857.

Legal science. Development of law of torts after 1847. Legal adjustments necessitated by commercial development of telegraph, gas companies, patents and trade-marks. Further spread of codification movement.

Progress of natural and applied science. Smithsonian Institute, 1846. American Medical Association, 1847. American Association for Advancement of Science, 1848. American Pomological Society, 1848. National Academy of Sciences, 1863. Beginnings of modern study of physiography in the United States. Attention of zoölogists turns to morphology and embryology. Great influence of Agassiz et al. Asa Gray's contributions to botany.

American painting. Dominated by Düsseldorf influence. Work of Leutze and Eastman Johnson.

American sculpture begins to assume American characteristics. Subordination of classical themes. Mills, Palmer, Rogers, et al.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

American music. First American-composed grand operas, 1855-65. Jenny Lind and Patti. Influence of German immigrants on musical development. First Wagner performance in America in 1859. Productive period of Stephen C. Foster, composer of plantation melodies, 1846-64. Songs of the Civil War.

Trend of public life.

New leaders in public life North and South.

Evidences of political corruption.

Growing political breach between North and South.

Humanitarian reform.

Anti-slavery. Propagandist services of Whittier, H. B. Stowe, Underground Railway. Personal Liberty Laws. Attitude of Northern moderates. Southern "fire eaters".

Progress of women. First appearance in professions. Twenty-one states pass laws recognizing separate legal identity, 1844-60. Dorothea Dix and her efforts for welfare of insane. Mrs. Bloomer and dress reform. Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. E. C. Stanton. Women in industry during the Civil War.

Religious life.

Growth of spiritualism. "Rochester rappings" (1849) and Fox Sisters.

Origin (1851) and spread of Y.M.C.A. movement in United States.

Division of Presbyterian Church over slavery, 1853.

New era of theological study (placing emphasis on historical point of view).

Missionary work in Far West.

Great revival, 1857-58.

Effects of Civil War on churches.

American life under war conditions, 1860-65

Public opinion in North and South on eve of war.

Reorganization of economic life in North and South during war.

War finances.

Organized welfare work: United States Sanitary Commission, Sanitary Fairs, Soldiers' Aid Societies. Christian Commission, Ladies'

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Christian Commission, Soldiers' Rests.

Every-day life of soldiers in camp and on campaign.

Pacifist movements in North and South.

Culmination of emancipation movement.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.