

the Indian corn has also given a powerful impulse to the rapid settlement of the whites in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and other western states. In one of my first excursions to the west, I saw a man felling trees in March, who, when I returned in October, had harvested a crop of Indian corn, grown on the very spot. He had also the leaves and stems of the plant to serve for winter fodder for his cattle. He was an emigrant, newly arrived, and entirely without the capital indispensable to enable him to cultivate wheat, which must have been twelve or thirteen months in the ground before it could be reaped."

Next day the stirring news of the invasion of the Mexican territory by the American army, reached New York, and I met the news-boys, in every street, crying out, "War with Mexico!" Soon afterward I saw the walls covered with placards, headed with the words, "Ho, for the halls of the Montezumas!"

The mayor had called a public meeting to express sympathy with the President and the war-party at Washington. This meeting was held in the Park, and although it may have served the purpose of the democratic party, it was certainly a signal failure, if any strong expression of popular feeling in favor of such a war was looked for. In the crowd I heard nothing but Irish, Scotch, and German accents, and the only hearty cheer which any one orator could draw, even from this mob of foreigners, was obtained by representing the Mexicans as acting under the influence of British gold.

I met with no one person in society who defended the aggression on the Mexican territory; but, as they can not prevent it, they endeavor, each in his way, to comfort themselves that the mischief is no worse, some saying, it will be a less evil than fighting with Great Britain; others that it will furnish employment for a host of turbulent spirits; while some merchants hint that the democratic party, had they been economical, might have lowered the tariff, and carried out their dangerous theory of free trade, whereas now they will plunge the nation into debt, and be compelled to resort to high duties, which will "protect native industry." The dissatisfaction of others is unbounded; they dread the annexation of a region containing five millions of