

he notices that every natural rock, islet, or surface of any kind that will hold paint is disfigured with advertisements in huge letters. The ice-worn bosses of gneiss which, rising out of the Hudson, would in themselves be such attractive objects in the landscape, are rendered hideous by being made the groundwork on which some kind of tobacco, or tooth-wash, or stove-polish, is recommended to the notice of the multitude. All the way west to the Pacific along the railway route the same barbarous practice has been employed, with an ingenuity and perseverance worthy of a better cause. Some of the most picturesque cañons on the route have had their walls turned into advertising boards—for the spoilers have travelled with ladders as well as paint pots, and have carefully inscribed their wares on precipices which would ordinarily be inaccessible. Oil-paint lasts for many years; so that even if the sacrilege be soon suppressed it will be long before the record of it has wholly disappeared.

Not many years ago Chicago lay at the extreme verge of advancing civilisation. One who had been so far west could boast that he had reached the limits of settlements, and had looked on the great plains haunted by wild red men and buffaloes. Now, however, the network of railways has spread far beyond Chicago, which has become one of the chief marts of the Union, having free communication alike by water and land with the eastern seaboard of the continent. I was making some such natural reflections as the train slowed in approaching Chicago station, when a noise as of broken glass came from the other unoccupied end of the car. The crash was loud enough to startle everybody for a moment, but the conversation and packing up of bags were immediately resumed. On going to the spot I found that two window-panes of the car had been