GREATER UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

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Greater United States of North America by E. J. David

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ESSAY

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PREFACE

This is a mere Essay,-multum in parvo.

In this work, the Author, a plain citizen, simply exposes in a business-like fashion, his views on some of the opportunities of our country as a nation.

S. F., January, 1903.



CHAPTER I:

THE YANKER.

If you go through the world, in foreign lands: England, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, Russia, in old Europe; in Persia, India, Siam, China, in thick-set Asia; Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, Cape Colony, in dark Africa; in Australia; in South America; from the North to the South Pose, ask to any native of these foreign countries what is a Yankee? Readily he will reply that he is the citizen of the United States of America. For him the name itself means more: it is synonimous with liberty, honesty, ability, liberality, individuality, audacity in conception, skill in mechanics and in invention. The magic success of the Spanish war made the name known in the smallest hamlet in foreign lands.

A new name has been forged to serve other interests than ours, rather than to meet new idea, but in my mind of business man I plainly understand that an Englishman is an Englishman, a German is a German, a Russian is a Russian, an American is an American, by birth or adoption, by interest and by sentiment, and will remain so; that only things and animals belong to the whole world because they have no human soul and anybody can buy it. Passion and imagination, indispensable to poets and writers, have

very little to do in financial, commercial, industrial, political and scientific matters.

I may be pardoned if on such a delicate theme as the general character of the American citizen and the general character of his social system I desire express my own opinion in a few words. Too many of the foreign writers who come over the ocean to study America once back in their respective countries generally give out in their memoranda of the United States the impressions received from late debarqued immigrants, far from to be half americanized. They think themselves so learned and so important that in a few months, in a few weeks, even in a few days they know the United States from bottom up, from East to West and from South to North. When it takes many years of hard work and study to master any science, yet, those contemptuous fellows think, in their infallibility, that a look at the stars is enough to know astronomy and her allied sciences; so it is with the United States although more difficult to penetrate deeply than any abstract science. It is quite a difficult thing to appreciate itself with impartiality, but travels and long years spent abroad may have tempered that partiality by being able to compare foreign countries to my own, not on mere superficialities but by deep and actual experience.

The true American citizen is by nature brave, honest, amiable, hospitable, patriotic, energetic and intelligent; he is practical and yet idealistic and enthusiastic. Cultivation and refinement make him a gentleman equal, if not superior, to the gently of the

best educated classes of Old Europe for manners and behavior. An educated American is the best and most generous of friends.

The American is not greedy for money; if he were he would not give away his wealth with such a prodigal hand, and would not throw aside the European low schemes of money-making by the pursuit of dowries. It is the desire to make use of his vast energies; to show the ability of the individual. He knows that money is concrete power; that it commands learning, skill, experience, wisdom, talent, influence, numbers; that it is the great endeavor, the great spring of power; that financial success is the measurement of ability and intelligence.

The American citizen is the representative of civil liberty and individualism. His unequaled energy, his indomitable perseverance and his personal independence made him a pioneer. He deeply trust that his country is called to the highest destiny for the benefit of humankind.

In the years of indisturbed peace the United States have undergone gigantic changes. They have grown rich; they have changed from an agricultural country into an industrial country. The standard of life has been raised with an undreamed of rapidity. The horizon has been widened; the ever-expanding industry has pushed trade over the occans; a colonial system has been set up and all has had one effect in common: the confirmation of the democratic spirit in the noblest meaning in the world.

The raising of the social level of the business man,

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