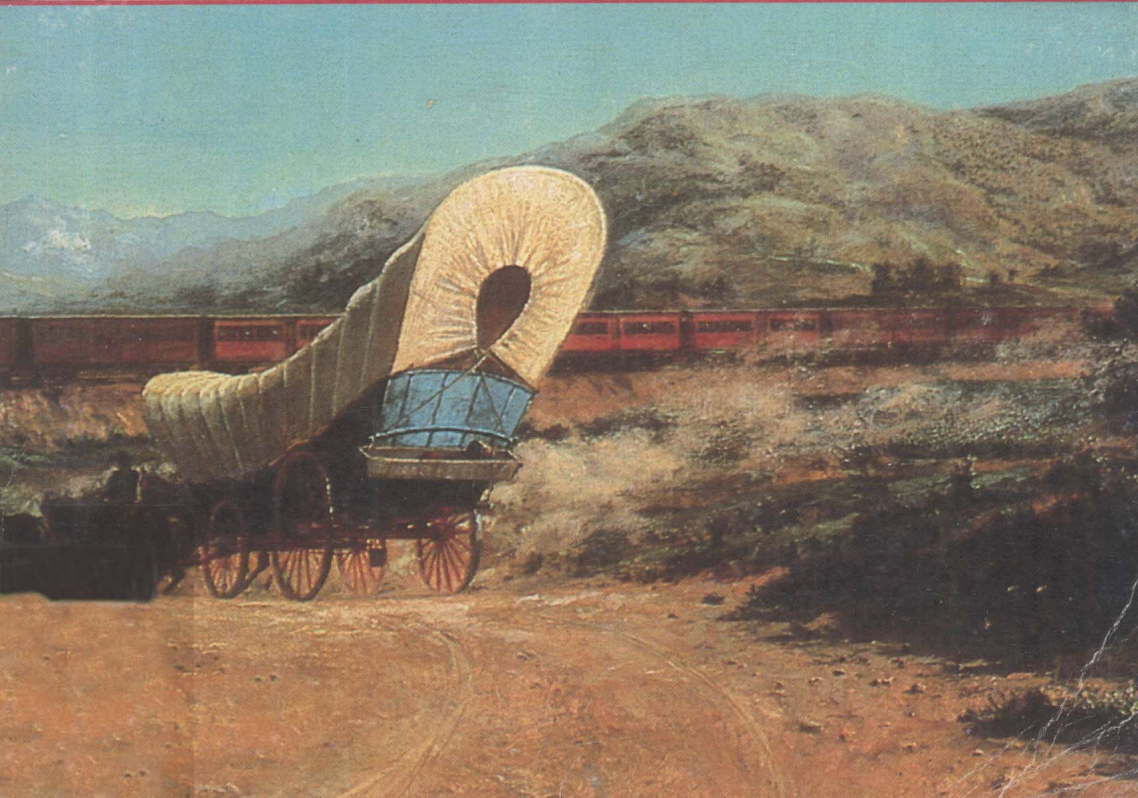
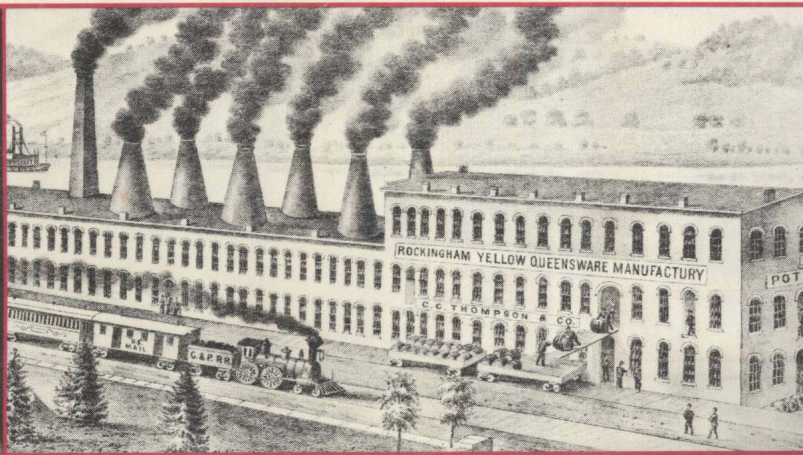
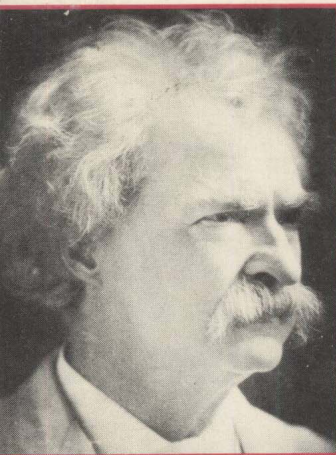


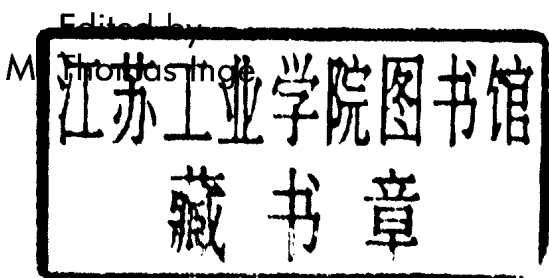
A NINETEENTH-CENTURY

AMERICAN READER

Edited by M. Thomas Inge



A NINETEENTH-CENTURY
AMERICAN
READER



Published by the
United States Information Agency
Division for the Study of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20547

United States Information Agency, Washington, D.C. 20547

Published 1988. 2nd Printing 1989.

Printed in The Philippines

Reprint or translation rights to this volume, in whole or in part, can be granted only outside the United States. Permission must be obtained by writing the United States Information Agency, Division for the Study of the United States, Office of Academic Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Information Agency, Washington, D.C. 20547.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A Nineteenth Century American Reader.

1. American literature—19th century. 2. United States—Civilization—19th century—Sources. I. Inge, M. Thomas.

PS535.N56 1988

810'.8

87-20977

Project Editor: Perry Frank

Editorial Assistants: Phyllis Mofson and Barbara Cavanaugh

Designed by E. S. Illustration and Design, Inc.

Photo Research by Diane Hamilton

Front cover, upper left:

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, otherwise known as Mark Twain, in old age. (Library of Congress.)

Upper right: C. C.

Thompson & Co.

Manufacturers of

Rockingham White Lined

and Yellow Queens Ware,

East Liverpool, Ohio.

(Library of Congress.)

Bottom: Thomas Otter, *On*

the Road. 1860; 22 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x

45 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Detail. (The Nelson-

Atkins Museum of Art,

Kansas City, Missouri;

Nelson Fund.)

Back cover: Burnside's

Rhode Island Brigade and the

71st New York Regiment,

Attacking the Confederate

Batteries at Bull Run.

Engraving in *New York*

Illustrated News. Aug. 5,

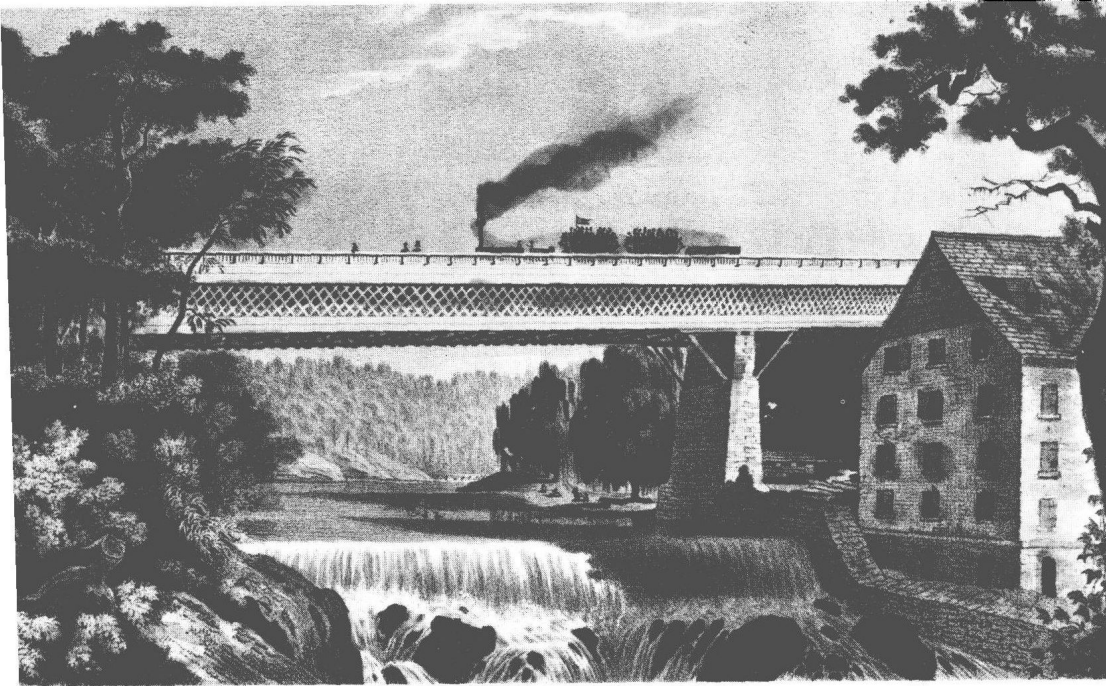
1861 after the pencil, wash,

and Chinese white drawing

by Alfred R. Waud. (Library

of Congress.)

*Railroad Bridge over the
Wissahickon, near Manayunk.*
1835. Color lithograph; ©
1850 by Charles Fenderich.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
ca. 1835. (Library of
Congress.)



F O R E W O R D

The American Reader Series is a three-volume set of anthologies designed to acquaint foreign students and scholars with the main outlines of American literature and culture. The books contain primary readings from the areas of literature, politics, the arts, thought, and popular culture of their respective periods. Volume 1, *An Early American Reader*, was edited by J. A. Leo Lemay, H. F. duPont Winterthur Professor of English, University of Delaware. M. Thomas Inge, Blackwell Professor for the Humanities, Randolph-Macon College, edited volume 2, *A Nineteenth-Century American Reader*. Volume 3, *A Twentieth-Century American Reader*, is under development by USIA staff.

The readings in each volume have been selected to provide an overview of the evolution of American culture, emphasizing how a complex and diverse nation emerged from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, interest groups, and lifestyles. The books are thematically organized and include introductions to place each excerpt in historical context. Period illustrations complement the texts in order to enhance the student's understanding of the United States.

The series brings together readings and documents that it would be impossible to obtain individually for a course, and the thematic organization should assist instructors in developing curricula. We are confident that the books will be an important addition to the bibliography of volumes available for the study of the United States throughout the world.

Perry Frank
Project Editor

P R E F A C E

The intent of *A Nineteenth-Century American Reader* is to provide a body of readings, drawing on literary and historical documents, in an attempt to suggest rather broadly the dominant patterns of American thought during one century of national development. Since immediacy rather than perspective is the major aim, I have drawn on primary rather than secondary material. In fact, everything is primary except for things that, while secondary, are also classics and, therefore, in some sense primary—for example, Turner on the frontier.

There is no intent to argue for or support any particular point of view regarding history or events. Thus the presence of Turner, or Pollard on the Civil War, is intended to provide points for further study and readings and not to affirm the schools of historiography that they represent. I have tried to collect “think” pieces that can stand critical analysis and reflect trends of thought rather than provide materials for a full coverage of our national development in the nineteenth century.

Literature of all kinds is represented: essays, speeches, criticism, documents, letters, autobiography, personal narrative, fiction, poetry, ballads, satire, and so forth. Wherever possible, the informal, personal, and concrete has been selected rather than the formal, impersonal, and abstract.

While the volume has been controlled by outside chronological limits and a roughly chronological order has been retained within units, the overall structure has chiefly been determined by major intellectual movements and continuing issues in American life. Thus, transcendentalism, realism, naturalism, industrialism, and so forth have been controlling philosophic patterns, but within these developments I have woven a series of issues that have remained constant throughout our cultural and political growth—freedom versus authority, expansionism versus isolationism, belief versus disbelief, and so forth. It is my hope that a careful and intelligent use of these materials will enable the reader to perceive these emerging patterns, attain a historical perspective through his own effort, and thereby come to understand better what it means to be an American.

M. Thomas Inge
*Robert Emory Blackwell Professor
of Humanities
Randolph-Macon College
Ashland, Virginia*

**George Caleb Bingham,
*Daniel Boone Escorting
Settlers through the
Cumberland Gap*. 1851–52.
Oil on canvas; 118" x 91".
(Collection, Washington
University, St. Louis.)**




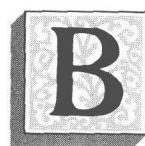
C O N T E N T S


<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xiii
<i>Foreword</i>	xvii
<i>Preface</i>	xix

CHAPTER ONE

<i>Geographic Expansion and National Character</i>	1
---	----------

	Westward Expansion and the American Mission	5
	1. Defining the Mission: John L. O'Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity," 1839.	6
	2. A Vision of World Brotherhood: Walt Whitman, "Passage to India," 1871.	10
	3. A Vision of World Power: Josiah Strong, <i>Our Country: Its Possible Future and Its Present Crisis</i> , 1885.	21
	4. A Dissident Opinion: Carl Schurz, "Manifest Destiny," 1893.	25

	The Temperament of the Frontiersman	33
	1. The Frontiersman in His Habitat: Morris Birkbeck, <i>Notes on a Journey in America</i> , 1817.	34
	2. The Frontiersman and His Vices: Timothy Dwight, <i>Travels in New-England and New-York</i> , 1821.	40
	3. The Frontiersman and His Virtues: Timothy Flint, <i>Recollections of the Last Ten Years</i> , Letter XVII, 1826.	44

	The Influence of the Frontier	47
	1. The Frontier and the Romantic Sensibility: Washington Irving, "Frontier Scenes," "Osage Village," <i>A Tour on the Prairies</i> , 1835.	48
	2. The Frontier and the Imagination: Thomas Bangs Thorpe, "The Big Bear of Arkansas," 1841.	55
	3. The Frontier Faith: Peter Cartwright, "Riding the Scioto Circuit," <i>Autobiography of Peter Cartwright</i> , 1857.	64

4. The Frontier Vernacular: Mark Twain, "Frescoes from the Past," *Life on the Mississippi*, 1883. 68
5. The Influence of the Frontier on Human Nature: Clarence King, "The Newtys of Pike," *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevadas*, 1871. 73
6. The Influence of the Frontier on the National Character: Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," 1893. 80

CHAPTER TWO

Transcendental Inquiry and Individual Conscience

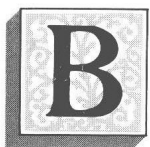
87



Patterns of Thought

91

1. A Rational Religion: William Ellery Channing, "The Moral Argument Against Calvinism," 1820. 92
2. Wisdom of the Majority: George Bancroft, "The Office of the People in Art, Government and Religion," 1835. 97
3. A Declaration of Intellectual Independence: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance," 1841. 103
4. The Fruits of Science and Technology: William H. Seward, "The Physical, Moral, and Intellectual Development of the American People," 1854. 109
5. The Life Lived Close to Nature: Henry David Thoreau, "Where I Lived and What I Lived For," *Walden*, 1854. 112
6. Philosophical Paradox: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Uriel," 1847, and "Brahma," 1857. 120



Tradition and Innovation in Literature

123

1. A Genteel Morality: Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Chambered Nautilus," 1858, and "The Deacon's Masterpiece," 1858. 124
2. Pilgrim's Regress: Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Celestial Railroad," 1843. 129
3. Prideful Alienation: Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Ethan Brand: A Chapter from an Abortive Romance," 1850. 140
4. Existential Alienation: Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street," 1853. 151
5. The Darker Side of Human Experience: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher," 1839. 175

6. New Art for a New Man: Walt Whitman "Preface," *Leaves of Grass*, 1855, and "One's-Self I Sing," 1867. 188
7. Reflections of a Sensitive Recluse: Emily Dickinson, "Some keep the Sabbath going to church," "He preached upon 'Breadth'," "I taste a liquor never brewed," "There's a certain Slant of light," "Because I could not stop for Death," "I heard a Fly buzz—when I died," and "I like to see it lap the Miles." 196



Social Progress 201

1. Social Injustice and Education: Frances Wright, "Of Existing Evils and Their Remedy," 1829. 202
2. The Mind of the Reformer: Horace Greeley, "Reforms and Reformers," *Recollections of a Busy Life*, 1868. 209
3. Christian Communism at Brook Farm: Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, "Plan of the West Roxbury Community," 1842. 212
4. Christian Socialism at Oneida: John Humphrey Noyes, "The Oneida Community," *History of American Socialisms*, 1870. 217
5. Intellectual Emancipation of the Woman: Sarah Margaret Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, 1855. 222
6. Humane Industrialism at Lowell: Lucy Larcom, "Among Lowell Mill-Girls: A Reminiscence," *A New England Girlhood*, 1889. 226
7. Higher Law and Civil Authority: Henry David Thoreau, "On Civil Disobedience," 1849. 230
8. Reform and the Unregenerate Human Heart: Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Earth's Holocaust," 1844. 244
9. The Machine in the Devil's Dungeon: Herman Melville, "The Tartarus of Maids," 1855. 257
10. The Innocents at Apple Slump: Louisa May Alcott, "Transcendental Wild Oats," 1876. 267

CHAPTER THREE

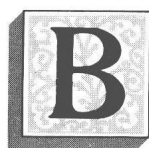
Internal Dissension and Sense of Union 277



Divergent Civilizations 281

1. The Old Order and Southern Agrarianism: Frederick Law Olmsted, "A First-Rate Cotton Plantation," *A Journey in the Back Country*, 1860. 282

2. The New Order and Northern Industrialism: William J. Grayson, *The Hireling and the Slave*, 1854. 285
3. Population Origins: Edward A. Pollard, *The Lost Cause: A New Southern History of the War of the Confederates*, 1866. 292



Slavery and Disunion

297

1. The Spirit of Insurrection: Thomas R. Gray, "The Confessions of Nat Turner," 1831. 298
2. The Abolitionists' Attack: William Lloyd Garrison, "Preface," *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, 1845. 303
3. The Southern Defense: George Fitzhugh, "Negro Slavery," *Sociology for the South*, 1854. 309
4. The Preservation of Sectional Harmony: The Compromise of 1850, Speeches by John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster, March 4 and 7, 1850. 315
5. John Brown: The Divine Scourge: John Brown, "Last Speech," 2 November 1859. 326
6. John Brown: The Passionate Puritan: Henry David Thoreau, "A Plea for Captain John Brown," 30 October 1859. 328
7. John Brown: The Lunatic Hero: Charles Farrar Browne, "Ossawatimie Brown," *Artemus Ward His Book*, 1863. 334



The Resort to War

337

1. Rallying the Union: Abraham Lincoln, "First Inaugural Address," 4 March 1861. 338
2. Justifying the Southern Cause: Jefferson Davis, "Inaugural Address," 18 February 1861. 345
3. Appomattox: Conclusion of a Long March: Joshua L. Chamberlain, "The Third Brigade at Appomattox," 1903. 349
4. The Generals' Encounter at Appomattox: U. S. Grant, "Negotiations at Appomattox," *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*, 1885-86. 355
5. Concluding the Peace: Robert E. Lee, "Farewell to His Troops," 10 April 1865. 360
6. One and Undivided: Sam R. Watkins, "Retrospective," "Co. Aytych," *A Side Show of the Big Show*, 1882. 362

7. The Eve of a New Era: U. S. Grant, "Conclusion,"
Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, 1885. 367



Reconstruction 371

1. A Restoration Policy: Abraham Lincoln, "Second Inaugural Address," 4 March 1865. 372
2. The Loss of a Leader: Walt Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," 1865. 375
3. Radical Reconstruction: Thaddeus Stevens, "Reconstruction," 1865. 383
4. Return to Bondage: The Mississippi "Black Codes," 1865. 390
5. Economic Recovery in the South: Henry W. Grady, "The New South," 1886. 395
6. The Status of a Minority: George Washington Cable, "The Freedman's Case in Equity," *The Silent South*, 1885. 402
7. Separate but Equal Opportunity: Booker T. Washington, "The Atlanta Exposition Address," 1895. 410
8. Separate but Equal Civil Rights: The U.S. Supreme Court, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, Majority Opinion and Justice Harlan Dissenting, 1896. 414

CHAPTER FOUR

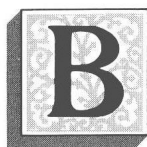
***Industrial Triumph and Confrontation of Reality* 423**



Problems of an Industrial Society 427

1. Paradox of Progress and Poverty: Henry George, "The Persistence of Poverty," "The Single Tax," *Progress and Poverty*, 1879. 428
2. The City as Nerve Center of Civilization: Josiah Strong, "Perils—The City," *Our Country*, 1885. 434
3. The Shame of the Cities: Jacob August Riis, "Genesis of the Tenement" and "The Awakening," *How The Other Half Lives*, 1890. 439
4. Free Silver and the Common Man: William Jennings Bryan, "The Cross of Gold," 1896. 446
5. Conspicuous Consumption: Thorstein Veblen, "Conspicuous Leisure," *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, 1899. 452

6. Humanitarian Socialism: Eugene Debs, "Speech at Girard, Kansas," 23 May 1908. 456
7. The Power of Trade Unionism: John Mitchell, "An Exposition and Interpretation of the Trade Union Movement," 1910. 464



Gospel of Wealth 471

1. The Power of Self-Confidence: Russell H. Conwell, "Acres of Diamonds," 1870. 472
2. The Art of Making Money: P.T. Barnum, "Seven Commandments for Success in American Business," *Struggles and Triumphs*, 1874. 477
3. The Proper Administration of Wealth: Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," 1889. 487
4. "Lithrachoor, Taxation, an' Andhrew Carnaygie": Finley Peter Dunne, "The Carnegie Libraries," 1906. 493



Art and Environment 497

1. Indigenous Art: Folklore and Song: Three American Ballads "John Henry," "Ballad of the Boll Weevil," and "Jesse James." 498
2. Indigenous Art: Local Color: Bret Harte, "The Outcasts of Poker Flat," 1869. 503
3. Realism: The True, the Good, and the Beautiful: William Dean Howells, "A Defense of Realism," "Breaking New Ground," "Tests of Fiction," *Criticism and Fiction*, 1891. 511
4. Realism: The Honest Study of Life: Stephen Crane, "Interview with W. D. Howells," 1894. 519
5. The Difference Art Makes: Henry James, "The Real Thing," 1893. 522
6. Victims of Capitalism: Hamlin Garland, "Under the Lion's Paw," 1891. 539
7. Victims of Fate: Ambrose Bierce, "The Coup de Grâce," 1891. 549
8. Victims of Society: Kate Chopin, "Désirée's Baby," 1894. 554
9. Victims of Circumstance: Stephen Crane, "The Open Boat," 1898. 559
10. Victims of Human Nature: Edward Arlington Robinson, "Richard Cory," 1893; "Miniver Cheevy," 1910; "Mr. Flood's Party," 1921. 576

Index

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Samuel Langhorne Clemens, otherwise known as Mark Twain, in old age	front cover
2. C. C. Thompson & Co. Rockingham White Lined and Yellow Queens Ware, East Liverpool, Ohio	front cover
3. <i>On the Road</i> , Thomas Otter	front cover
4. Burnside's Rhode Island Brigade and the 71st New York Regiment, Attacking the Confederate Batteries at Bull Run, Alfred R. Waud	back cover
5. <i>Railroad Bridge over the Wissahickon, near Manayunk</i> , Charles Fenderich	frontispiece
6. <i>Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers through the Cumberland Gap</i> , George Caleb Bingham	frontispiece
7. <i>The Oregon Trail</i> , Albert Bierstadt	page 3
8. <i>Westward Ho (American Progress)</i> , George A. Crofutt after a painting by John Gast	5
9. <i>Politics in the Oyster House</i> , Richard Caton Woodville	6
10. Walt Whitman, Mathew Brady	10
11. <i>Pilgrims of the Plains</i> , A. Babbitt after a drawing by Alfred R. Waud	21
12. Carl Schurz	25
13. The title page of miner's handbook	33
14. <i>Taking the Census</i> , wood engraving from a sketch by Thomas Worth	34
15. Frontier home, 19th Century in the Appalachian Mountains	40
16. <i>Road and Bridge over the Mohawk</i> , lithograph by Bichebois, figures by V. Adams, drawn from nature by J. Milbert, printed by H. Gaugain	44
17. <i>Bound Down the River</i> , Currier & Ives	47
18. When the second pistol misfired, I was very close to the buffalo, from <i>A Tour of the Prairies</i>	48
19. Fight with a bear, from <i>The Crockett Almanac</i>	55
20. Rev. Peter Cartwright and his wife, T. Johnson	64
21. Mark Twain, one of earliest known likenesses	68
22. <i>Pass in the Sierra Nevada of California</i> , E. Weber	73
23. Frederick Jackson Turner	80
24. <i>The Mohawk Valley</i> , Robert Havell, Jr.	86

25.	<i>Authors of the United States, Mid-Nineteenth Century</i> , engraving after a painting by Thomas Kicks	90-1
26.	<i>Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden</i> , Currier & Ives	92
27.	Election Day at the State House, Alexander Lawson	97
28.	<i>Independence (Squire Jack Porter)</i> , Frank Blackwell Mayer	103
29.	<i>The Progress of the Century</i> , Currier & Ives	109
30.	<i>Walden Pond</i> , S. W. Chandler & Bro.	112
31.	<i>Ralph Waldo Emerson</i> , Armstrong and Co.	120
32.	Oliver Wendell Homes, B. F. Mills	123
33.	<i>Deacon Jones' One Hoss Shay, No. 1</i> , M. J. Warner	124
34.	They enter the town, from <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>	129
35.	Nathaniel Hawthorne	140
36.	<i>Panic of 1857, Wall Street Half Past Two O'Clock</i> , James H. Cafferty and Charles G. Rosenberg	151
37.	Edgar Allan Poe, Mathew Brady	175
38.	Walt Whitman, from <i>Leaves of Grass</i>	188
39.	Emily Dickinson	196
40.	Caricature of Charles Summer, G. W. Cottrell	201
41.	Frances Wright, engraving by J. C. Buttre after J. Gorbitz	202
42.	Cartoon spoofing Greeley's 1872 presidential campaign, wood engraving after Thomas Nast	209
43.	Elizabeth Peabody, Milton Bradley Co.	212
44.	Oneida Community "bag bee"	217
45.	<i>The Young Housekeepers. A Year after Marriage</i> , Currier & Ives	222
46.	Lowell Letter Paper with a new view of the city, Franklin Hedge	226
47.	Henry David Thoreau, George F. Parlow	230
48.	Hawthorne's "Old Manse," Benjamin Mills	244
49.	<i>Match-Makers</i>	257
50.	Louisa May Alcott	267
51.	<i>View of the Boott Cotton Mills at Lowell, Massachusetts</i> , from <i>Gleason's Pictorial</i>	275
52.	Lincoln, Davis and McClellan symbolize forces threatening Union dissolution, Currier & Ives	276
53.	<i>Sunny South</i> , lower Mississippi, Calvert Lithograph and Engraving Co.	281
54.	<i>Plantation scene; children playing, woman carrying bucket on head</i> , Alexander Anderson	282
55.	<i>Workroom—Shoemakers</i>	285
56.	Mt. Airy, William Pendleton's Lithography	292
57.	Runaway slaves being pursued by slave catchers in a border state	297
58.	Composite scenes of Nat Turner rebellion, Samuel Warner	298

59.	Masthead of <i>The Liberator</i>	303
60.	Child laborers	309
61.	John C. Calhoun	315
62.	Daniel Webster addressing the U.S. Senate on the compromise measure of 1850, R. Van Dien	320
63.	Militia on their way to quell John Brown's uprising	326
64.	<i>John Brown Arraigned before the Court at Charleston</i> , J. E. Taylor	328
65.	Cartoon depicting Brown's movement as too advanced for typical slaves of the 1850s	334
66.	Spirit of Union patriots preparing to go into battle, James Queen Lithograph	337
67.	A campaign poster for Lincoln's first presidential race, W. H. Rease	338
68.	<i>The Starting Point of the War between the States</i> , A. Hoen & Co.	345
69.	Meeting of Generals Grant and Lee Preparatory to the Surrender of General Lee, P. S. Duval & Son	349
70.	Gen. Robert E. Lee, Mathew Brady	355
71.	<i>Home Again</i> , Endicott & Co.	360
72.	<i>Confederates Opening Fire on the Union Troops Who Had Begun Destruction of Reed's Bridge, Chickamauga Ga., Sept. 18, 1863</i> , Alfred R. Waud	362
73.	Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, with wife and son	367
74.	<i>Reconstruction of the South</i> , John Smith	371
75.	Lincoln's second inaugural	372
76.	President Lincoln's funeral	375
77.	Black men voting on cover of <i>Harper's Weekly</i> , Alfred R. Waud	383
78.	In the cotton fields of Georgia, T. W. Ingersoll	390
79.	A bustling Southern city during Reconstruction, Beck & Pauli	395
80.	Down on the Farm, Samuel E. Rusk	402
81.	Interior of the Negro Building at Atlanta Exposition	410
82.	<i>Noon at the Primary School for Freeman, Vicksburg, Mississippi</i>	414
83.	<i>New York, N.Y.</i> , J. J. Fogerty	422
84.	Cartoon portrayal of extreme poverty in the shadow of wealth	426
85.	<i>The Female Slaves of New York—"Sweaters" and Their Victims</i>	428
86.	<i>The Slum Work of the Salvation Army</i> , wood engraving after a watercolor by Miss G. A. Davis	434
87.	<i>Court at 24 Baxter Street, New York City</i> , Jacob Riis	439
88.	Anti-Bryan cartoon which accuses the candidate of misusing the Bible to buttress his cause, Judge Publishing Co.	446