

THE IMAGE OF EUROPE IN KALAMAZOO FROM 1837 - 1860

Kalamazoo College History Seminar Paper #70

Submitted by: David Kibbey

CONTENTS:

Introduction, page 1

The Average Citizen of Kalamazoo, page 1

Attitudes of the Average Kalamazoo Citizen toward
Europe in the Field of Foreign Policy, page 4

Industry and Agriculture, page 13

Observations of Europe and the Effects of its Culture
on Kalamazoo, page 18

Conclusion, page 22

Bibliography, page 23



THE IMAGE OF EUROPE IN KALAMAZOO FROM 1837 - 1860

A study was made of all articles pertaining to Europe in the Kalamazoo Gazette and the Michigan Telegraph during the years stated in the title. In addition, various secondary sources were used. An attempt was made to gain some insight into the picture which the average citizen of Kalamazoo was able to get of Europe, and to evaluate his attitudes toward Europe.

The Average Citizen of Kalamazoo

"Many of Kalamazoo's early people were tradesmen or professional men; All tilled the soil as the best means of subsistence."¹ The richness of the soil along the Kalamazoo River Valley made conditions excellent for farming. What business did arise was due to the need for subsistence by the farmer.

"Along the Kalamazoo River the rich alluvium of the bottom lands in places reached from half a mile to a mile in width on each side of the river."²

These industries flourished which catered to the need of the farmer. When the panic of 1837 came on and commerce naturally declined, there was a resurgence of the plow. The Kalamazoo Gazette noted this fact:

"Never before has there been one-fifth part as much land under cultivation in the county of Kalamazoo and vicinity as at the present time. Our farmers have found out the true source from whence all substantial and real wealth must spring. No more visionary bubbles we believe will ever again tempt them to forsake the plow."³

1. anon., History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan, Everts and Abbot, Publishers, Philadelphia, 1880, P. 357.
2. Fuller, G. N., Economic and Social Beginings of Michigan, Wynkoop-Hallenbeck-Crawford Co., Lansing, 1916, P.310.
3. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The), June 24, 1837.

"With the coming of the Michigan Central Railroad into Kalamazoo in 1846 the general business conditions once more became prosperous."⁴ "Kalamazoo returned to manufacturing simultaneously with farming activities and the exploitation of the resources of the land. Blast furnaces and other industrial necessities were introduced."⁵ "By 1856 there were in Kalamazoo besides farms:

- 1 Blast Furnace
- 2 Agricultural Implement Manufacturers
- 3 Machine Shops
- 2 Saw Mills
- 3 Lumber Yards
- 3 Carriage Makers
- 1 Wagon Maker
- 6 Boot and Shoe Manufacturers
- 3 Flour Mills
- 10 Doctors
- 11 Lawyers. "(6)

This is to mention only a small sampling given by the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Thus through thirty years of growth the once purely agricultural village had developed into one equally divided between agriculture, commerce, and manufacturing.

"The recreation of the people consisted of lectures, plays, concerts, circuses, and gymnastic clubs."⁷ "Lectures were given on every conceivable subject: Politics, Clairvoyance, Religion, Philosophy, Phrenology, and Diseases."⁸

4. Troff, Theodore, Early Kalamazoo Commerce and Industry, Kalamazoo College. P. 44

5. Ibid., History seminar paper, Kalamazoo College, p. 55

6. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) October 17, 1856.

7. Quick, Eloise., Social Life and Customs of Kalamazoo fr 1846 to 1860., Kalamazoo College History Seminar paper

8. Ibid., P. 15.

"Kalamazoo had its own Glee Club, and raised money to buy music so that it could compete with "the best foreign and itinerant performers."⁹ "Road companies played to Kalamazoo audiences in such plays as Damon and Pythias, Black-Eyed Susan, and Othello."¹⁰

"Such circuses as "Roger's Northern Circus", and "Sand's-Nathan's" and "Companies American Circus" came to this city along with balloonists and other exhibitions."¹¹

The males of the town had the rare opportunity to visit Dr. J. Sill's Gymnasium, where they could get their needed exercise. Gradually this privilege was extended to the females as well."¹²

Two major parties dominated the Kalamazoo political scene during this twenty year span. A third party was on the ascendancy during the latter years. The two major parties were the Whigs and the Democraft. Both of the local papers were spokesmen for the political parties. The Kalamazoo-Gazette on inspection, proves to be a Democratic organ and the Michigan Telegraph was Whig dominated. The average citizen was able to procure the paper of his choice.

9. Ibid., P.18.

10. Ibid., P.21.

11. Ibid., P.23.

12. Ibid., P.26.

Attitudes of the Average Kalamazoo Citizen toward Europe
in the Field of Foreign Policy

The area covered by the investigation into the image of Europe from 1837 - 1860 is richly endowed with incidents on the international level where by the average citizen of Kalamazoo could voice his opinion of Europe, especially through the communication organ of the Kalamazoo Gazette, and later the Michigan Telegraph. Major incidents occurring during this twenty-three year period include such famous ones as: "The Caroline Affair," "The McLeod Case," "The Oregon Question," and "The Crimean War."

"During the Canadian insurrection of 1837 the rebels maintained themselves on Navy Island in the Niagara River. A short distance from the falls a small American steamer, the "Caroline" was engaged in carrying supplies to them from the American side. The British, annoyed at this violation of neutrality, organized a volunteer party to go across to the New York side and eliminate this nuisance. On December 29, 1837 the "Caroline" was burned and sunk. One man was killed."¹³ The "Caroline" affair was the first serious affair in this period of study, and the people of Kalamazoo, in my opinion, debated as to whether this was an overt act of murder or not. The general feeling toward Canada and Great Britain seems to be that we should not bully them nor should we be led by them.

13. Thomas A. Bailey, A Diplomatic History of the American People, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1953, P.205.

The Kalamazoo Gazette, speaking on the Fox and Forsythe letters as to this affair seemed to feel elation in the fact that England admitted her wrongs in the handling of the "Caroline". They were particularly proud over the manner in which Mr. Forsythe handled himself in the matter.

"The manner in which he (Fox) is met by Mr. Forsythe is every way pleasing and satisfactory and the debate in the House, too presents a good tone. No party spirit is evinced-but one general feeling to put at bay the British Lien. It looks as though we might now expect a speedy adjustment in some way, of these long disputed matters."¹⁴.

"By April 16, 1841, the Gazette was reporting that Britain was ~~debating~~ war. Yet it maintained that the American people believed that cooler heads would prevail."¹⁵. It also reported that due to the "Caroline" incident and the "McLeod" case, specie payment by the united States Banks was stopped abroad.

In may the Gazette carried an article entitled "Our-Voice is still for War." It stated;

"But that there will eventually be a war there can be no doubt. The British government is bent upon it, but they are not yet prepared."¹⁶.

The article hints that from three to five years in the future John Bull would chastise us.

14. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) January 22, 1841.

15. Ibid., April 16, 1841.

16. Ibid., May 7, 1841.

"In November, 1840, a Canadian was arrested (Mr. Alexander Mc Leod) in New York and accused of murder and arson. A great international battle over his status and trial was waged. Mc Leod's alibi satisfied an American jury and he was acquitted on October 12, 1841."¹⁷ This was a very serious case and seemed to arouse public opinion more than the "Caroline" incident. The Federal Government of the United States did not want the sovereign state of New York to try the case in its courts. This was an international incident and was properly within the jurisdiction of the federal courts. The Gazette looked with bitterness on this government intervention. To the question, why did it interfere? there was written this answer. Its text was slanted yet it seems to be the only available one on record.

"Simply because they dare not do otherwise, a frown from old John Bull would knock the Whig cabinet at Washington into next week."¹⁸

There was even talk in the same article about driving Britain out of North America and setting up an independent nation in the north.

A later article of May showed this intense defiance and also posed a serious question to the American people.

"Mighty frightened some of our would be great ones are when England storms and thunders at us. They even think we poor yankees ought not to complain if we are murdered by a British subject, as the English, in their opinion are something better than common."¹⁹

17. Op.Cit., Thomas A. Bailey.

18. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) May 14, 1841.

19. Mrs. Coburg--Queen Victoria, married to Albert of Saxe--Coburg, Germany.

"But there are some who are so graceless after all as to believe that our national honor should not be disgraced or even tarnished because Mrs. Coburg blusters a little."20.

The actual court case itself received little attention from the Gazette. It mentions in the issue of July 23, 1841, that McLeod was denied a writ of habeas corpus. In the September Gazette appeared this story, which was a rumor in the news from Europe columns.

"The liverpool mail of the nineteenth says it was rumored that four or five sail of the line are to be immediately dispatched to the coast of America, where they are to be joined by the several other ships of war and armed steamers, and the object of this Naval force is said to be a follow up and to support the demand made by the British government upon that of the United States for the liberation of Mr. McLeod."21.

The Gazette also states that the British government would neither confirm nor deny the rumor. The paper was able to report by October 1, 1841, that the threat of war had lessened and that the British had agreed that the incident had been an act of public force done at its will.

"On Friday, October 8, 1841, the Gazette had another violation to present to the public. "An American citizen, Colonel James W. Grogan, had been kidnapped from Vermont. President Tyler urged the good people of America to keep the peace and to discountenance all patriot uprisings and hunters' lodges.²² The Gazette published affidavits testifying to the fact that Grogan had been kidnapped. The article ended by saying:

20. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) May 15, 1841.

21. Ibid., September 17, 1841.

22. Hunters' Lodges--American Citizen groups estimated at from between 15,000 to 200,000 strong. Their sole purpose was to emancipate the British colonies from public thralldom.

"The affidavits establish beyond a cavil that this outrage was premeditated and brutal beyond comparison—that our country has been invaded and all law and right been ruthlessly disregarded and trampled upon.... The papers (affidavits), have been forwarded to Washington and to our government and we doubt not that measures will be taken to demand redress for this insult and rescue us from a repetition of an offense which debases even those British soldiers who disgraced humanity by their barbarity and cruelty in the late Canadian insurrection."²³.

The Gazette tone would seem to intimate that it and the citizens of Kalamazoo felt strongly on the issue and that repeated encroachments on our borders would cause disastrous results. This would seem to reveal the spirit of nationalism which was prevalent in this new territory. It would also tend to illustrate the fact that early citizens of Kalamazoo and Michigan feared the same thing would happen in their areas.

McLeod was released as previously stated, on a verdict of acquitted, October 12, 1841. The Gazette carried the announcement in its October 22 issue, and also told of the release of Colonel Grogan. It was able to be sarcastic in the matter of Grogan for it said:

"Would it not be well to have the Governor General of the Canadas remove to New York or some more central place than Toronto. It would be more convenient to him, and as we must be trodden down by Great Britain, perhaps less expensive to us."²⁴.

The Democratic Gazette was able to get in its usual prod at the administration by saying: "We would like to know whether it is British gold or British bluster that prevails with Mr. Webster."²⁵.

²³ Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) October 8, 1841.

²⁴ Ibid., October 22, 1841

²⁵ Ibid., October 22, 1841.

The Gazette carried this final comment on Mr. McLeod which seems to be a moral judgement on the whole business.

"This man, having by great good luck, acquired much notoriety, has left for England. The whole affair was as he knew beforehand quite a God send to him. There are too many such miserable scamps that would be glad to have a subsistence furnished them by the public. Although it be that of a felon- How he will live after the present excitement shall have passed away is a matter of conjecture. Perhaps he will join a gang of counterfeiters, or more probably follow his bent, enacting the hero as a chief bully, to a brothel."²⁶

With this matter on the way very few references are made to Europe before the Webster-Ashburton Treaty had been signed. Yet this was a smouldering period. The Maine boundary was in dispute, the "Caroline" affair remained unatoned for, and the occupation of Oregon was coming to a head.

The Kalamazoo Gazette announces the terms of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.²⁷ Very few comments were made regarding this settlement, for it was believed that even in compromise we had acquired much more than could be hoped for. It wasn't until June 9, 1843 that the Gazette had its doubts. It said that too much credit was given to Webster in making the compromise a good deal. It did not believe that Webster even had a map.²⁸ It appeared to the Gazette writer that the situation was reversed, and that the British were in possession

26. Ibid., October 29, 1841.

27. Ibid., September 16, 1842.

28. Jared Sparks Map (Some reason to believe that this map was made by Benjamin Franklin. It would have given all of Maine to the English.

of the map of George III, which gave them cause for compromise. The Gazette seemed to believe that Maine was entitled to all of her territory and states:

"So then Webster was the overreached person and we have been cheated out of a large portion of our territory. The British in parliament allow themselves to swagger in John Bull style about having 'come it' over the yankees, the God, like Daniel and all." 29.

The same issue of the paper gave this story:

"The British government has taken possession of Sandwich Islands. The object of this extraordinary maneuver is apparent. It is the better to inforce their arrogant pretentions to the Oregon territory.

The British were never known not to claim everything they want, no matter how impudent or unjust their pretentions might be, nor were they ever known to yield a single vote of pretention when once made unless compelled to do so by force of arms. The British should at once by force be expelled from the Oregon territory, for to this issue we must come at last. Delay only makes the matter worse. We should either have our own in the possession of and for the benefit of our citizens, we should have it quickly too, or else send Mr. Webster to Great Britain to cede that government the Oregon territory." 30.

After this blast at the Whigs the records of the Gazette are missing, but when they resume in 1846, they make very little mention of the Oregon settlement one way or the other. I believe that this is mainly because of the fact that the Gazette was a strong Democratic voice and it did not want to attack the party for its failure to get all the territory, and it was not pleased sufficiently to praise the acquisition at all. This conclusion is my own opinion entirely.

29. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) June 9, 1843.

30. Ibid., June 9, 1843.

The Gazette rival, the Michigan Telegraph now began publication. Surprisingly it was only mildly interested in Oregon. It did berate its party for what it called "masterly inactivity"³¹ in its part in the acquisition. In the same article it mildly attacked the Polk administration with these words:

"This Polk administration is a mere creature of the South and must do its bidding. The South will never consent to a war with England for this cause. They might fight for a servile Texas, but not for a free Oregon."³²

Things were quiet on the international scene in the local papers until the Crimean War. The Gazette began carrying articles on this subject in each issue. The first article appeared on July 7, 1854. It began:

"Man proposes but God disposes, and from out of the present crisis of affairs in Europe, we believe something of good will be educed-if not in the speed establishment of great and positive good, at least in the mitigation and destruction of the numerous ills under which the masses of the old world are now laboring. There is a prophecy of better days to come, and without the aid of horoscope we can see in the dim shadowy distance, tokens of a new world rising up from the conflicts of the old." ³³

If the word of the Gazette can be taken on the will of the people we can see that the people had a desire for a better world for all. In regard to the alliance of France, England, Russia, and Austria ostensibly to pressure the nationality of Turkey, the Gazette says that it is "in reality for the purpose of hunting and destroying the Russian Bear."³⁴

31. Michigan Telegraph, November 21, 1845.

32. Ibid., November 21, 1845.

33. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) July 7, 1854.

34. Ibid., July 7, 1854.

On September 15, 1854, there appeared a curious advertisement in the Gazette which would, more than the editorials of that paper, give some clue to the temperament of the people. It gives the impression that Europe was an immoral breeding ground for all the world's evil and Americans were something above the intrigues of their foreign ancestors.

While the great potentates of the eastern continent are busily engaged in cutting each others throats over a miserable country not worth a seven by nine rat hole in the worst swamp of the whole Western world, we as free and enlightened citizens, living in a Christian land, understanding our best interests, are busily engaged in dispensing the blessings of peace and happiness to the numerous customers of the:

Peoples Cheap Cash Store of Barrow and Company (35)

The Gazette makes another judgment of Europe's intrigues:

"All this (preparation and slaughter of Europeans) is for a sick Turkey. With fire and sword she established herself in Europe, and now it takes the swords of all Europe to keep her there in peace."36.

And on February 22, 1856, in the "News Gathering Column," the Gazette makes this statement:

"The powder used in the siege was much of it manufactured at Hazard's and Dupont's mills in Connecticut and Delaware. Europe cannot get along without our cotton, wheat, and gun powder."37.

If these various articles may be assumed to be the reflection of the ideals of people in regard to the foreign relations between the United States and Europe, then I believe a certain conclusion may be reached. The average citizen was a freeman, exposed to the wilderness, but still possessing a

35. Ibid., September 15, 1854.

36. Ibid., September 15, 1854.

37. Ibid., February 22, 1856.

Knowledge and interest in European affairs. He looked on Europe with all the democratic spirit which was his heritage from the frontier. He possessed a passionate hatred for aristocracy, monopoly, and special privilege. I feel that he must have seen these features in the image of Europe and judged them accordingly, at the Gazette and Telegraph articles seem to indicate.

Industry and Agriculture

Now that I have surveyed the average Kalamazooan's concepts of Europe in the light of international relations, I must turn to other fields of endeavor in which the average citizen of Kalamazoo could possibly have been exposed to the European touch.

Possibly the most necessary place to begin is to study the influence of Europe on agriculture and industry. Investigation seems to me to indicate the fact that Europe was not relied on or even thought of. This is a logical conclusion in view of the fact that the basic work of the pioneers of Kalamazoo was farming. As stated previously there was in this valley of the Kalamazoo River, rich alluvial soil which stretched for approximately a mile and a half on each side of the river, producing fertile farming land. Most of the early pioneers of Michigan were of the hearty yankee stock of New England, They were bred with rugged individualism, and were weaned on hardship. The new territories offered economic prosperity and the pioneer tended to become self confident and self sufficient: Self confident as to their equality in opportunity and self sufficient in that they learned to rely on themselves. "In almost any community of the pioneer farmers, there were men from various

walks of life, men who were ready to turn the hand to the old occupations, but whom the comparative ease of supporting a family by farming in Michigan had induced to abandon, at least temporarily, the old pursuits."³⁸.

The average farmer was glad that grain was short in Europe during the drought season for it brought a bigger price to him on the market. During this period, when the corn laws were abolished in England, he was especially gladdened. An example can be given, if the town newspaper can be considered the voice of the people. The Michigan Telegraph read: "Corn Laws repealed, Free trade Triumphs!"³⁹. It must be noted that the same article announced that the price of flour advanced twenty-five cents per barrel in Detroit. The article continued, warning the citizenry not to forget his native land and the necessity of becoming economically self sufficient.

"It is the wisest policy England can adopt, to offer free trade with all the world, because she manufactures more and cheaper than other nations, but it is not wise or advantageous to us to receive them in exchange for fabrics (which are not necessities of life) without incurring debt and becoming impoverished. The grain growers of the Western states must sell their grain for less than half its price in England for transportation deducted, which he would not lose if he had a home market, created by manufacturing fostered by the protective arm of our government."⁴⁰.

38. Fuller, G.N., Economic and Social Beginnings of Michigan, P. 482.

39. Michigan Telegraph, March 6, 1846.

40. Ibid., March 6, 1846.

This maintenance of a strong agricultural system seems to have been coupled with a strong desire by these thrifty yankee immigrants to foster a well developed manufacturing system just like the one that was built in New England. Both local news sources called for development, or local markets based on a foundation of home industries. The Michigan Telegraph ended an article on free trade by stating that:

"England's most liberal customer has not become her rival in manufacturing, and we would be unwise to permit her to deluge us again with her wares by opening our ports, thus becoming tributary to her (England) wealth, to the destruction of our own manufacturing interests."⁴¹.

It should be noted that the Telegraph was a Whig dominated newspaper and I believe that this statement was based on the "American Plan" of Henry Clay; a strong Whig. Yet this does not detract, I feel, from the idea that the social psychology of the people was slanted at self sufficiency, and that to develop home industries which would create economic independence was an aim of the Michigan pioneer and more especially the Kalamazoo citizen.

Corresponding with this desire for economic independence was a fear of European economics and their effect on the world. The average citizen could read in the weekly papers, new accounts of world markets and on inspection they continually appeared to be gloomy. Any great world crisis seems to have brought panic on the stock exchanges of Europe. I feel that this

41. Ibid., March 6, 1846.

fear of Europe's world economic power led the pioneer of Kalamazoo to devise to be free from any entanglements which might bring ruin to him if a crisis should occur. He did not want to be a European Colonist; He wanted to be an independent American.

The average Kalamazooan could also sympathize with his European counter-part. As I stated before he could look at the news from Europe at various times, and see for himself the condition of the laboring classes. The Chartist movement of the laboring classes was going on, a movement for equality and reform of social standards. Riots and general strikes were common through England in the 1830's and 1840's, and there was much bloodshed. The Kalamazoo Gazette announced: "Riots in Nottingham."⁴² News from the labor scene was poor; the workers were in rebellion.⁴³ Though there was sympathy for the European working classes, I feel that the average citizen of Kalamazoo assumed the position of an omniscient observer. Conditions in Kalamazoo were not very serious, because most of the people engaged in farming to maintain themselves,⁴⁴ and the industries of the village only supplemented the agriculture.

To sum up, I feel that the average citizen was desirous of economic independence based on the establishment of a strong agriculture, supplemented by the building of a solid manufacturing system, and the maintenance of his role as the rugged individual, able to earn his own living without any other nation or person to assist him.

42. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) July 16, 1841.

43. Ibid., September 30, 1842.

44. Ibid., June 24, 1837. (16)

Carl Russell Fish in his book, "The Rise of the Common-Man-1850-1880," has a comment on the national spirit which I feel can be applied locally also.

"Less thought was given to the revolution than to the widespread national ambition to make the nation entirely self-supporting."⁴⁵

Though the pioneer was self-sufficient and used the products of the land, it seems he also had a slight taste for the luxuries which this country could not supply. These following advertisements will show that the Kalamazoo citizen was not completely out of reach of European luxury items. They must have purchased the products because the stores always managed to run big ads in the local papers. It must be noted that these stores dealing heavily in European goods were often Mail Order Houses. This does not detract, I think, from the conclusion that they must have realized the potential of the area market.

NEW YORK CHEAP CASH STORE

Lucius Clarke

English Broadcloth
French and English Prints

Swiss Silk
Italian Cravats

German Silver

Swiss Muslin (45)

† To Cash and Six Month Buyers Only
M. L. Hollowell and Company
Philadelphia

Have now open for the fall season a very large and splendid assortment of silk and fancy goods.

Having an established branch of our house in Paris with a member of our firm permanently located there.

We will be able to receive direct, constant supplies of new and desirable goods throughout the year. (46)

45. Fish, Carl Russell, The Rise of the Common Man-1850-1880. Macmillan Company, New York, 1929, P.91.

46. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) April 12, 1842.

Observations of Europe and the Effects of its Culture on Kalamazoo

Since Kalamazoo was a settlement of mostly yankees from the New England-New York area, I would assume that this had much to do with the attitudes of the people toward Europe in general. A survey of comments in the papers of the time leads one to believe that there was a general antagonistic attitude toward Europe and things European. I feel that this was due to the belief of the average citizen of Kalamazoo that he was the epitome of vertue in all endeavors. He seemed to regard himself as being on a higher moral plane than the European.

Coinciding with this attitude of moral superiority, I feel, was the increasing nationalism which seemed to characterize the pioneer. He could look on all this great land and feel it was the best of all possible worlds. There was unlimited possibility for anyone who wished to get down and pitch in, and hard work was his heritage from the New England tradition.

Jokes and observations from the Kalamazoo Gazette and the Michigan Telegraph characterize this nationalism.

"In our country, exclaimed an Italian, in ours
sir, we have the ever burning Mt. Vesuvius!!
Have you indeed replied a son of America,
And in our country we have the fall of Niagara
which would put it out in five minutes."⁴⁸

The July 28, 1854 issue of the Gazette printed this bit of humor during the time of the Crimean war:

48. Kalamazoo Gazette, (The) March 11, 1837.

"Degradation of the Russian Clergy"

"A Russian gentleman related that when passing one day through a village he saw a number of peasants assembled and stopped to enquire the cause. 'Oh, replied one of them, 'It is only the priest whom we are going to lock in the barn!' 'and why do you do that?' 'Because it is Saturday. The priest is a drunkard and we always lock him up on Saturday in order that he may be in a condition to perform Divine services on Sunday. On the Monday he is free to drink as he likes or other days of the week.'"49.

This is not only evidence of our national pride but it is, I feel, more significant as a jibe at the morals of Russia. Yet this is a universal moral judgment and the subject could be almost anyone of the European countries.

Further evidence of the inherent sense of superiority in morals and nationality is a Telegraph article in 1846. It is giving an observation on the city of Naples, and makes this cutting statement:

"City of Naples-most thieving place on earth - 400,000 people, 100,000 thieves. 100,000 beggars, 100,000 soldiers and priests, and the rest respectable persons, nobility, fishermen, and farmers."50.

It is interesting to note that they did not include the nobility in their list of undesirables.

In the true tradition of New England, Kalamazoo became a haven for congregationalism and temperance. It is not valid to state that it was practiced whole heartedly, but it is safe to say that there was a temperance spirit and it manifests itself in regard to Europe. In the Telegraph issue of March 13, 1846, in an article on "Gin Drinking", the paper states:

49. Ibid., July 28, 1854.

50. Michigan Telegraph, May 15, 1846.

A London paper says that to supply one "gin palace" in that city, nine horses drawing three large wagons loaded with the baleful poison, are seen at regular periods progressing in a sort of procession, and that it is boasted by a keeper of one of their "palaces" which brings ruin upon the poor, that on a Saturday night a guinea a minute has been taken across the bar....People of the United States - take warning! (51)

The Kalamazoo papers were inclined to advance moral judgment on Europe, and in particular, England. England had been trying to induce us for many years to join in a dual patrol against the action of the slave traders. On July 18, 1846, the Gazette took an opportunity to blast away at what it thought to be British hypocrisy.

"British abolition- The negroes taken from slaves on the African coast by British cruisers, instead of being returned to their native places, are taken to the West Indian Islands and subjugated to the most severe kind of servitude."52.

Cultural life in Kalamazoo had quite a good deal of influence from, or flavor of Europe in the literature and arts of the time, as I have mentioned earlier in the paper (the introduction.) Lectures seemed to be the most important cultural entertainment. Mr. Carl Shurz was one of the European speakers to appear here. His subject was "The Democracy and Deposition of France." The Gazette said of his speech:

"The speaker gave evidence not only of ripe scholarship, but of a keen discerning intellect, through which runs a vein of philosophy peculiar to the habit of the German mind."53.

51. Kalamazoo Gazette (The), March 13, 1846.

52. Ibid., July 18, 1846.

53. Ibid., November 25, 1857.

The newspaper supplied some entertainment to the people in the way of fiction and had a tendency to give some attention to Europe as evidenced by a few of the story titles from the Michigan Telegraph. It appears that they just borrowed the stories, for no publishers permission was given.

"The two Bossompierres or the Duke and the Peasant"^{54.}

"A View from the Battlefield" (Waterloo)^{55.}

"The Last Mystery of Paris"^{56.}

"The Village Doctor" (Countess L. Arronville)^{57.}

54. Michigan Telegraph, April 3, 1846.

55. Ibid., April 17, 1846.

56. Ibid., May 5, 1846.

57. Ibid., July 28, 1849.

CONCLUSION

The habits, qualities, and ideals of the settlers of Michigan in this period were essentially those of New York and New England. These offspring of the early New Englanders pushed on through the northwest, settling the northern frontier of the nation. They were endowed with a rugged individualism in church, state, and society. These blessings allowed them to survive the hardships of frontier life.

Along with this rugged individualism there seems to have been a kind of self assertiveness. The pioneer, a recent New Englander, regarded his ideals highly and jealously guarded them. They knew of hardship and poverty and they had sympathy for the underprivileged. This is evident in their regard for Europe. The average citizen looked upon that place with all the democratic spirit which was his heritage from the new frontier life. He could see Europe with its aristocracy and nobility as a potential threat to all he held dear. He had a passionate hatred for aristocracy and monopoly and special privileges; He believed in simplicity, economy, and in the rule of the people.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY:

Kalamazoo Gazette

Michigan Telegraph

SECONDARY:

Bailey, Thomas A.
A Diplomatic History of the American People
Appleton-Century-Crofts
New York, 1953.

Fish, Carl Russell
The Rise of the Common Man-1830-1850.
Macmillan Company
New York, 1929.

Fuller, G.N.
Economic and Social Beginnings of Michigan
Wynkoop, Hallenbeck, Crawford Company
Lansing, 1916.

Quick, Eloise
"Social Life and Customs of Kalamazoo from 1846-1860"
Kalamazoo College History Seminar paper

Traff, Theodore
"Early Kalamazoo Commerce and Industry"
Kalamazoo College History Seminar Paper

anon
History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan
Everts and Abbot, publishers
Philadelphia, 1880.

