

The Prince Imperial

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can now complete in our brief three score and ten. I doubt whether during his whole life he saw more important changes or witnessed a more substantial progress, either physically, morally, socially, or politically, than we have done within the last twenty-five years.

We have within that time looked in upon the cradle where human institutions were in their swaddling clothes, and we have witnessed all their stages of development up to the period of their present maturity. We have practically been back to the days of the early Patriachs, and many of the changes which, in other instances, it has required three thousand years to produce, have passed successively before our own vision. We have seen society in the process of its first formation. Little by little have we beheld the elements organizing into regular order, crystalizing into forms in accordance with the laws of their being and developing progressively into higher and more perfect organizations as circumstances permitted or required.

Some of us at least have witnessed the entire absence of all the forms of civil government within our limits. More than a year elapsed after the savage had yielded to the white man before the laws of Michigan were extended over the western shore of the Mississippi. Two years later we became a portion of the Territory of Wisconsin, and the winter following, regular Territorial Courts of general jurisdiction were, for the first time, established among us. Even then, the administration of the laws was for some time extremely imperfect. Counties were organized, but their limits no one could ascertain. The course of a stream, and lines indefinitely drawn from grove to headland were all the boundaries which the circumstances of the case permitted.

[*Concluded in October number.*]

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—The *Independence Belge*, speculating on the chances of Napoleon's son, now nine years of age, ever coming to the throne, recalls the remarkable historical fact that since Louis XIV. succeeded to the crown in 1643, a period of two hundred and twenty years, no son of any French monarch has succeeded to the throne.

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