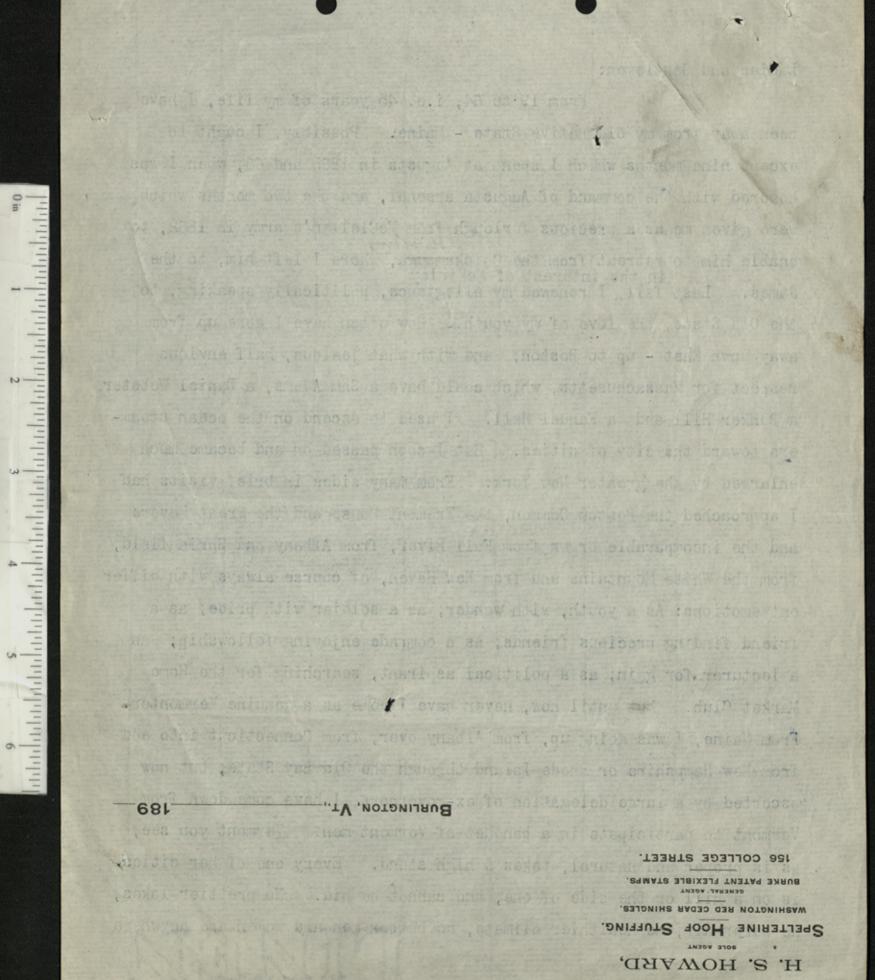
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Laties and Gentlemen:

From 19 to 64, i.e. 45 years of my life, I have been away from my old native State - Maine. Possibly, I ought to except nine months which I spent at Augusta in 1865 and 66, when I was honored with the command of Augusta arsenal, and the two months which were given me as a precious furlough from McClellan's army in 1862, to enable him to retreat from the Chickamauga, where I left him, to the in the interest of McKinley Last fall, I renewed my allegiance, politically speaking, to the Old State, the love of my youth. How often have I gone up from away down East - up to Boston; and with what jealous, half envious respect for Massachusetts, which could have a Sam Adams, a Daniel Webster, a Bunker Hill and a Fanuel Hall, / I used to ascend on the ocean steamers toward this city of cities. But I soon passed on and became much enlarged by the greater New York. From many sides in brief visits had I approached the Boston Common, the Tremont House and the great Revere and the incomparable organ from Fall River, from Albany and Springfield, from the White Mountains and from New Haven, of course always with differ -ent emotions: As a youth, with wonder; as a soldier, with pride; as a friend, finding precious friends; as a comrade, enjoying fellowship; as a lecturer, for gain; as a political aspirant, searching for the Home Market Club. Lantil now, never have I come as a genuine Vermonter. From Maine, I was going up, from Albany over, from Connecticut into and from New Hampshire or Rhode Island through the Old Bay State; but now escorted by a large delegation of ex-governors, I have come down from Vermont to participate in a banquet of Vermont men. Vermont you see, as is proper and natural, takes a high stand. Every one of her cities. is on a hill or the side of one, and cannot be hid. No prettier lakes, no purer air, no healthier climate, no better men and women are anywhere



to be found than in Vermont. Vermont is on the lead in the whole national race. Last fall before New England moved she sent her sons to the very top of the Green Mountains to lift up a banner with very simple words printed thereon ;viz: "With McKinley

and protection

we shall have more

employment, more work

and more wages."

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In August, she put a veteran in the Governor's chair covered all over with McKinley badges and buttons, and so said to the states of the Union: "Follow my example." Even democrats fell into line. We hardly reserved enough pure blooded democrats for the national offices in case Altgeldt and Tillman should succeed in winning the presidential race. Vermont sent her sons into Maine with a view to soften any slight home disappointment in that quarter, and give her reasons for this time preferring the Western standard bearer. Behold the rallying cries: Protection! Home Market! Sound Money! and agreement all along the line, - Our Country! The Old Flag! The same we fought for and have always loved! Let us all go for McKinley & Hobart this time!

"But the Vermonters are such a sembre set! They seldom laugh; they have no whiskey; never find a time to dance, and are as rigid as the old Scotch covenanters." What a slander. They are not sombre! You know that well enough, when they go to New York or Montreal on Badion their faces glow with health and ruddiness. It is business that absorbs them when at home, for the days are short up there and one has to be up and doing when the day begins and while the day lasts. They enough have whiskey; the officers of the law and of the courts know where it is, and now and then sinch all offenders; and you see by the reports

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lake is too hard on the stomach there is medicine enough and it is always handy. And as to dancing, David could not beat its votaries.

Of course, dancing is only an amusement, so that sensible men and women usually prefer the better things. Why, there are three great universities among our fruitful hills. For military lore and practice, Norwich University is ahead; for numbers of eager students, our Burlington University - The University of Vermont - defies the world; and for college acquirement, Middlebury keeps abreast of Dartmouth and others.

These higher grade foundations are builded by the great common schools, where scholars are diligent and teachers are able and faithful.

For religion, just look at our Bible Homes, where pure love at divine and human- dwells, and our churches, true to the Master and his world-wide missions in faith and devotion.

There is only one danger to Vermont, and that is that other states may, in their great need, depopulate our superb hills, villages and mountain sides, by taking her sons for their Governors and other officials, and her daughters for the choicest wives. Boston, herself, is greedy in this respect, in spite of her noble history! She has and borne away carried off the maidens fair and relicts young, as did the old Romans from the Sabine fields, and borne away a large proportion of our glorious inhabitants as this unique assembly

proves. All we say is - come back and see us as often as you can, and get your strength renewed.

H. S. HOWARD,

SOLE AGENT

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