

Comment by the Editor

THE SPIRIT OF PIONEERING

Observing the westward course of the sun in the heavens, the pioneers, like their racial ancestors, turned their footsteps toward the same destination. The future seemed to lie in that direction. And as the glowing tints of sunrise inspired daily hope of bright achievement, so the flaming skies of sunset beckoned ever onward with the promise of possessions and ultimate repose. Feeling the irresistible urge of progress, they moved in harmony with the universe.

Without envy or reluctance, the pioneers bade farewell to settled contentment in the East and set their faces valiantly toward the frontier. Endowed with hope, endurance, fortitude, versatility, confidence, high ideals, and wholesome discontent with inertia, they moved forward in the van. They encountered adversity with a courageous smile and endured privation with grim determination. Able-bodied and capable they were — men and women who knew the equity of requited toil and kept their faith in final success.

Pioneering consists of surmounting obstacles for the first time and smoothing the way for others. The people who settled Iowa counted it worth while to

hew and build, to sow and reap and sow again, to rear their children in simplicity and reverence, and to establish institutions for the promotion of civil order. Winning a continent was the splendid enterprise that fired their imagination. Allured by the boundless acres and hustling commerce they willingly risked their lives and treasure in the glorious work of making homes and developing the country.

Satisfaction with things as they are is the test of static society, but the essence of pioneering is dynamic ambition. Something ventured, something gained. And always buoyantly westward, ho! with the star of empire. Leadership in place of imitation; progress rather than stagnation; vision and not drowsy myopia; hope of the future more than satisfaction with the past; self-reliance instead of dependence — all these, and more, are the spirit of pioneering.

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