

11-21-1881

## The Genius of America

Clara Louise Guild

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## The Genius of America.

This is a massive painting, measuring twenty-two feet by thirty-five feet. It was painted by a French artist, Adolphe Yvon, upon an order of Alexander T. Stewart, N. Y.

Mr. Stewart intended the picture for the gallery in his own residence, but when it was brought home, it proved to be far too large for the limited space. At the same time, Mr. Stewart ~~delegated~~ the Pennsylvania Hotel and Senate and some one of the tall rooms was set apart for the painting.

It was in the year 1876, which was a very appreciative time as the picture is a representation of the progress of the United States in the last hundred years.

In the center of the picture, is a man on a platform, dressed in the dress of the time. <sup>— the name is E. Plancher —</sup> On this man, see two figures, the Republic, dressed in pure white and holding the sword.

of America. The car and figures represent  
the strength of the Government. Figures around  
the car are girls, one for every state, and no  
distinction is made between. The North and  
South now mingle. At the right of the car  
is the Statue of Washington and living  
citizens are bringing laurel garlands, and  
screaming his feet with their cheering about  
the group is a band of angels having triumph  
as if arising over the wrongs of the country.

Placed in the far background, are  
with the dusky forms of the Indians, all  
looking with admiration upon the statue.  
Sometime before that, are the poor negroes  
who have lifted themselves from the chains  
of slavery.

On the right of the car is a striking  
contrast to these figures. Numerous vessels  
have just landed at the wharves, many  
having brought emigrants. These poor  
wanderers hail with delight the New  
World. A land of freedom and equal law.  
In the lower corner, is pictured one of

one largest river. Jupiter sits on the bank  
while he is quenching a fire brand in the  
water. By his side are various implements  
of war, which are broken and rusty.

In the ground in front of the lions,  
little children are looking and <sup>admiring</sup> viewing  
the wonderful sciences <sup>which are illustrated by this group</sup> ~~and mechanics~~.

The only fact which spoils the effect  
of the picture, is the open grass and the  
dead, having thrown back their gear clothes  
looking in wonderment at the progress  
and prosperity of the New Continent.

(1) The picture is now full, but yet in  
comparison to its size. From studying it one  
can easily trace a sketch of the history  
of America, through its prosperity and ad-  
vancement.

Generally very well done, but with some marks  
of insufficient care. The sentence on this page  
marked (1) seems incomplete.

Nov. 21, 1881.

Oliver B. Guild.  
Nov. 21 - 1881.