

11-21-1881

The Genius of America

Clara Louise Guild

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Recommended Citation

Guild, Clara Louise, "The Genius of America" (1881). *Text Materials of Central Florida*. 899.
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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 ~~acquired~~ the Grand Union Hotel and Saratoga and one room of the latter soon was set apart for the painting.

It was in the year 1876, which was a very appropriate 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 style of the time. ^{— the name is E. Plancher —} 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
sweeping his feet with their flowing robes.
The group is a body of angels having triumphed
as if upon the wings of the eagle of the country.

Placed in the far background, are
within 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. Tumultuous 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 ^{studying} ~~admiring~~ ^{viewing} ~~viewing~~ ^{viewing}
the wonderful sciences ^{which are illustrated by this group} ~~of~~.

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.