

many good families, societies and clubs, which added a great deal to my education and future welfare. These fifteen months were as happy days as any young man ever experienced, besides when I left I had not only a big trunk of clothing, but also a well-filled purse. I returned home only strong enough to pass the muster for military service, and having drawn a high number which leased me from military duty, I received a free pass to travel as a master workman all over Germany and in foreign lands without molestation, and to receive the master's wages which my experience, skill and training entitled me. After some time spent in wandering from place to place, I went to Stuttgart, the capital of Württemberg, where I remained until news of the assassination of the president of the United States (Lincoln) was flashed around the world, when I made immediate preparations to go to New York and cast my lot with the American people. On the 5th day of May, 1865, I went to Bremen and took passage on a large three-masted sailing vessel and after 42 days' travel on the ocean, arrived at New York as free and happy as any young man could be. Having a good trade and being a fast worker, I knew I could make a good thing anywhere and especially in the United States of America. As I wandered through Central Park, Bowery and busy business sections of New York and met people in all sections of the country, I began to realize the immensity and greatness of America, and a fire came to see those parts of the United States that were far away from Broadway. Tiring of my life, having seen enough and tired enough of the gaieties, the theater and tinsel that was all around, I left New York in October, 1865, and went over to Southey, N. J., where I remained during a very severe winter. In January, 1866, I took the ill-fated steamer Evening Star at New York and after eight days'

would surely confront me. Never will I forget the misery I was in when I arrived at Memphis. No appetite and so weak I could hardly walk. Nor can I forget the night between Memphis and Cairo I was attacked by two roustabouts who were in the act of robbing me and perhaps pitching my body into the river, but in my weak condition I discovered their intentions and gave the alarm, when my assailants quickly withdrew.

After an eight-day trip we reached St. Louis, where I found relatives and friends and stayed with them for a month or so until I got stronger, and finally after several months fully regained my health and was myself again.

Politics was getting very exciting, and being against Grant and Colfax and espousing the cause of Seymour and Blair, I found myself at odds with my German associates, so I left St. Louis and went over to Illinois, finally stopping at Peoria, where I worked during the winter of 1868, and in the spring of 1869, having become homesick for Louisiana, and Mr. Etheridge continuing to correspond with me and urging my return, I left Peoria for St. Louis and again took a steamer for the mouth of the Red river, but in a happier spirit and frame of mind than ever before, for it seemed as if I was going home. At the mouth of the Red river was the old-time wharfeboat, where a person could find a night's lodging until the boat would pass. Of course, it was expensive in such a place, but there was always plenty of company, especially gamblers, who after they placed you, made off to hunt for other victims, always good-natured and liberal and would do you no harm. At that time the steamboats were full of gamblers and the games that were played were very exciting, and I have seen the time that it got so hot that the captain would land the boat and several of the gamblers would get off either dead

at least \$100,000, all well invested in real estate and stocks in different enterprises.

I have held different offices during this time which were honorary, but carried great responsibilities, such as councilman, police juror, mayor, member of school board, etc., and held commissions under Governors Wiltz, McEnry, Nicholls, Foster, Heard, Blanchard, Sanders, Pleasant, Hall, Parker, Fuqua and Simpson. As Pineville lost much business when the H. C. A. & N. R. R. was built through the hill sections north of Pineville, I went in with other citizens of Pineville and assisted in the up-building of Alexandria, and at the present writing I am a director in the following companies: Rapides Bank, Rapides Hotel, Alexandria Land & Improvement Company, Alexandria & Pineville Building & Loan Association, Alexandria & Pineville Bridge Company, and the Urania Lumber Company.

As for travel and recreation, I had my share of it, for I have been over a great part of Germany and France and most every state in this Union. I spent much time at the great Paris Exposition in 1900 and was present at the dedication of the Louisiana Exposition at St. Louis in 1903, also the Exposition in 1904. On March 1, 1904, I closed up my store, having sold out my entire stock of goods, as after 55 years' continuous business and having reached my sixtieth year, I felt as if a needed rest was at hand, but not so. A fire having destroyed the Levin frame building in Alexandria, corner of Murray and Third streets, I proceeded to prepare plans and erect a two-story brick building of modern design, which was completed in August, as also was the Waters & O'Shee and Su-Dick buildings, enough for one year.

From March, 1904, to March, 1905, I was without a regular occupation, but in 1905 I was offered and accepted the presidency of the Commercial Bank, and for the first time in my life I received a salary of \$1,000.00 a year. The

month or more. This was the best summer resort I had yet found. Good hotels, plenty of amusements and a cosmopolitan crowd of people, so that time passed away rapidly and pleasantly. I did not care for Philadelphia, for outside the navy yard, park and historic buildings the city seemed uninviting. Some of the Hardtner's settled in Chester county during the colonial days and were enumerated in the first census taken in the year 1790. We next went to Buffalo, Albany, Niagara Falls, and through Canada to Detroit and Cincinnati, and returned home about the 20th of September. The election for president passed off quietly, Taft being elected and business in general improved. I have been trying to make up my mind to sell my home and move over to Alexandria, but have about decided that Pineville has sheltered me all these years and will be sufficient for my declining days.

March 10th, 1910. This is a rainy day, the trees are just budding, and it is supposed winter is over, for Easter falls on March the 27th. It is hoped that the cotton crop will be better this year than the last two, when the crop was not over one-tenth of normal. It is true the farmer is learning to live at home, but not the case with the planter, who knows only cotton. Sugar is a costly crop unless there is a refinery near. In consequence of the short cotton crop, land that should be selling for \$50.00 per acre is sold at public auction for \$5.00 per acre, which is again one-tenth the value. Town property values are kept up by a few moneyed men who speculate in that kind of realty. The lumber industry is prosperous, but the forests are being destroyed at a rapid rate, so that it is a question of only a few years when they will have passed. Last summer I spent two months in Michigan and enjoyed the season very much. On New Year's Day I gave up the presidency of the bank and feel relieved of the responsibility, so

at night it was awe-inspiring, terrifying and frightful to behold—a scene never to be forgotten. After spending several days in the farming districts, where cane is the chief crop and the laborers Chinese, we returned to Honolulu, where we saw the Pearl Harbor; Punch Bowl, a hill rising 500 feet above the sea; Diamond Head, a crater 760 feet high; Nuame Pali, a picturesque precipice; Forts Shafter and Derussie; a burial cave up on the side of a mountain, and wound up by taking a surf boat and shooting the waves. The museum is filled with Hawaiian and Polynesian curios.

Returning to San Francisco, we found Carrie's father, Professor Eickhoff, very ill and a month later he died. He was a fine scholar, a great educator, and possessed a library of rare volumes which he had accumulated during his lifetime.

Returning to Pineville on the 15th day of September, after a week's stay I felt so lonesome and restless that I immediately made preparations that would carry me around the globe. Through the German-Lloyd Bremen I secured transportation which carried me from Pineville to Vancouver, B. C.; thence to Yokohama, Japan, on the Canadian Pacific liner Mont Eagle; thence to Shanghai and Hong Kong, China; thence to Manila and other places in the Philippines; thence to Singapore, India, Batavia, Java; thence to Burma, Calcutta, Rangoon; thence up the Ganges river to Benares, Lucknow, Agra, Jaipur, Delhi and the noted marble quarries of India; thence down to the seacoast of the Indian Ocean to Bombay, and across the bay to Elephantine Cave; thence to Colombo, Island of Ceylon, to Port Said, and Cairo, Egypt; through the Suez Canal, Palestine, the Mediterranean, Gibraltar, Italy, Germany, France, England and other European countries.

Mr. Hardtner's trip around the world will be published soon.