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The city of Lowell, from the number and extent of its manufacturing establishments, is one of the most prominent settlements of New England. As it has attained its present position altogether from the existence of those establishments, we design . . . to show the general progress of the place, as well as its condition, and incidentally to make some remarks respecting that particular branch of industry which constitutes the main feature of its enterprise. It is only about 25 years since the foundations of the settlement were laid. The first portion of the land, constituting its present site, was obtained in the year 1821; a tract of 400 acres, on which the most densely populated part of the city now stands, having been purchased at the cost of about \$100,000. The purchasers of this property were incorporated, as the "Merrimack Manufacturing Company," on the 6th day of February, 1822. During that year, the first mill was erected. From such a commencement, the city has gradually advanced—not only through periods of great commercial prosperity, but even when disaster seems to have settled upon most of the manufacturing establishments throughout the country—down to the present time.

A railroad, connecting Lowell with Boston, was opened in 1835, through which, the two places are separated by the distance of a ride of only one

hour; and other improvements were also making, relating either to the manufacturing enterprise of the place, or to the condition of the population.

At the present time its population is 28,000.

Of its population of 29,000, about 10,000 are connected with the manufacturing and mechanical establishments, constituting 6,000 females, and 2,915 males. Besides the principal and about 550 houses belonging to the proprietors, there are 33 mills; the capital stock, in manufacturing and mechanical enterprise, is about \$12,000,000. There are 1,459,100 yards of cloth, amounting during the year to 75,000 yards, manufactured in the place during the week; and, in each year, 61,100 bales of cotton are worked up. 14,000,000 yards of calico are also here annually made . . . a sum of more than \$1,500,000 are paid out annually for wages.

Important improvements have been projected, and many have already been completed, with a view to the extension of the business and manufacturing operations of the place.

The city was incorporated on the 30th of March, 1836; and from that period the most strenuous measures have been adopted for the improvement of the city, by the construction of side-walks and by lighting the streets, as well as for the benefit of the public health and the public morals, and for the erection of edifices of various sorts for the purposes of religious instruction, benevolence, and education.

FROM *Hunt's Magazine* 16 (1847): 356–62.



WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON

## I Will Be Heard (1831)

*The Boston editor William Lloyd Garrison was the most famous abolitionist in the country before the Civil War, and his newspaper, The Liberator, was an important source of antislavery opinion. Initially a colonizationist, Garrison had gone to Baltimore to help edit a moderate antislavery paper in that city, but his strong opinions and forceful prose soon led to his arrest and imprisonment. Following his release, he*

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returned to Boston, determined to edit a new and much more vigorous antislavery journal. In the columns of *The Liberator* Garrison defined the central tenets of the new, more militant movement known as abolitionism. Garrison quickly became the most hated man in the South, and rewards were offered to anyone who would kidnap him and bring him to the South for trial. The following editorial, which appeared in his paper's first issue, makes clear his new tone and commitment.

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During my recent tour for the purpose of exciting the minds of the people by a series of discourses on the subject of slavery, every place that I visited gave fresh evidence of the fact, that a greater revolution in public sentiment was to be effected in the free states—and particularly in *New England*—than at the south. I found contempt more bitter, opposition more active, detraction more relentless, prejudice more stubborn, and apathy more frozen, than among slave owners themselves. Of course, there were individual exceptions to the contrary: This state of things afflicted, but did not dishearten me. I determined, at every hazard, to lift up the standard of emancipation in the eyes of the nation, *within sight of Bunker Hill and in the birth place of liberty*. That standard is now unfurled; and long may it float, unhurt by the spoliations of time or the missiles of a desperate foe—yea, till every chain be broken, and every bondman set free! Let southern oppressors tremble—let their secret abettors tremble—let their northern apologists tremble—let all the enemies of the persecuted blacks tremble.

I deem the publication of my original Prospect unnecessary, as it has obtained a wide circulation. The principles therein inculcated will be steadily pursued in this paper, excepting that I shall not array myself as the political partisan of any man. In defending the great cause of human rights, I wish to derive the assistance of all religions and of all parties.

Assenting to the “self-evident truth” maintained in the American Declaration of Independence, “that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights—among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” I shall strenuously contend for the immediate enfranchisement of our slave population. In Park-street Church, on the Fourth of July, 1829, in an address on slavery, I unreflectingly assented to the popular but pernicious doctrine of *gradual* abolition. I seize this opportunity to make a full and unequivocal recantation, and thus publicly to ask pardon of my God, of my country, and of my brethren the poor slaves, for having uttered a sentiment so full of timidity, injustice and absurdity.

I am aware, that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen;—but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—AND I WILL BE HEARD.

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