

STORIES of New Jersey

tions, a world unity would emerge. There would be a republican form of government with annual elections. Universal harmony would do away with soldiers, policemen and criminals.

With the idea of reaching a wider public, Brisbane purchased from Horace Greeley the use of a daily column in the New York Tribune in which, day after day, he expounded the theory of Fourierism. Although Greeley was to become one of the staunchest supporters of the Phalanx movement, he took care to assume no responsibility for Brisbane's articles. The column carried a statement which read, "This column has been purchased by the advocates of Association in order to lay their principles before the public."

Brisbane's teachings fell on fertile soil. A few years later one investigator listed 69 associative communities, excluding religious ones, 15 of which were called phalanxes. They comprised about 9,000 people and owned about 140,000 acres of land. One social experiment that joined the Fourier movement was Brook Farm, a few miles out of Boston, founded in 1842 as an endeavor in communal living based upon the social-political democracy advocated by Bancroft, the historian. George Ripley, the founder, was a Unitarian minister whose plan was

. . . to insure a more natural union between intellectual and manual labor . . . to combine the thinker and the worker as far as possible in the same individual . . . to guarantee the highest mental freedom by providing all with labor adapted to their tastes and talents and to secure for them the fruits of their industry.

Many of the most distinguished scholars and literary men of the day, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Dana, later editor of the New York Sun, the Rev. Theodore Parker, and a host of others were active in, or for a time associated with, the Brook Farm colony. When Brisbane's articles appeared, Brook Farm aligned itself with the Phalanx plan and for a time was known as the Brook Farm Phalanx. The Harbinger, the organ of Fourierism in this country, was printed at Brook Farm from June 1845 to June 1847.

Although the Brook Farm experiment has, because of its association with many names famous in literature, received more attention from writers and historians, it was not nearly so successful as the New Jersey colony known as the North American Phalanx. One reason given for this is that the Phalanx members happened to be "practical," rather than literary or esthetic. Of the scores of colonies set up along the lines of Fourierism the majority lasted not more than a year. Brook Farm lasted about 6 years, but the North American Phalanx flourished for 12 years.

In 1843 a small group of 10 progressive families from the vicinity of Albany, with an aggregate subscription of \$8,000, purchased the old Van Mater farm in Monmouth County of \$14,000 and set up the North American Phalanx. There were about 673 acres of well-watered arable land, woodland and meadow, plus extensive beds of marl, used as fertilizer. In addition to those who took up residence, there were some who had sufficient faith in the experiment to back it with purchases of stock. Among these was Horace Greeley, who, from first to last, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Association. He had dedicated his