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5 Facts About Each Reform

*Abolition*

1. Founded on the principle to eradicate slavery in the United States completely. No longer would it be present in the nation.
2. Famous people in the group included: Frederick Douglass, Elijah P Lovejoy, Theodore Weld, and William Garrison
3. Garrison was a radical abolitionist who called for an immediate emancipation in his newspaper The Liberator
4. North was the hotbed of the abolitionist movement, but not all northerners were abolitionists, many were ambivalent towards the issues
5. Slave rebellions began to occur more frequently, such as Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner. They were well thought out plans that failed due to betrayal.

*Education*

1. Reformers sought public education during the antebellum era for public schooling was only considered for the poor whereas the aristocratic could afford the higher level of education, e.g. ivy leagues schools :D
2. Increased taxation was the only means in order to raise funding for better public school funding which the rich severely opposed.
3. Over the course of the antebellum period, more cities and states realized that education was utmost in order to maintain the democracy in America.
4. Horace Mann was one of the great champions of public schools. Serving as secretary, he fought for higher teacher qualifications, better pay, better curriculum, etc.
5. Catherine Beecher, sister of Stowe, also advocated for higher teacher saying that teachers should also be women.

*Temperance*

1. Movement is defined by the idea that drunkenness was the source of immorality and that it caused many practical problems including bodily harm and public disorder.
2. Congress passes a law forbidding the sale of alcoholic spirits to the Indians, galvanizing people to bond together to form the American Temperance Union
3. Children were used as a form to communicate their propaganda as they made children memorize marching songs and uniforms.
4. German and Irish immigrants did not appreciate this new law, though it did cause millions of drinkers to moderate or even stop their drunkenness, making being drunk a sign of degeneracy
5. Women and temperance went hand in and hand for they were considered more moral of the two sexes. This led to the Eighteenth Amendment, passed ONE year before the nineteenth amendment

*Prison Reform*

1. Conditions for prisoners were extremely decrepit for they did not have the proper amenities to house them
2. Debtor’s Prison was still a common occurrence and housed majority of American criminals, basically poor people who could not pay back their loans to their creditors
3. Reformers changed this occurrence as they argued against the idea of debtor’s prison and helped eliminate it
4. Activists argued for reform that people should be given a chance to change instead of permantantely locked up.
5. As best demonstrated, this reform is successful for no longer do we see debtor’s prison.

*Women's Rights:*

1. The idea that women should have the same rights as men in the nation
2. Women at the time had an important time in government reform for they were the ones who helped propel many of the reform movements( temperance, Dix’s mental institution).
3. Women did not have the rights to partake in government activities, lobby openly for their goals, or even take leadership positions due to the increased sexism.
4. Seneca Falls was a convention organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady , including women and 240 sympathizers, who created an institution for equality.
5. The Seneca Falls Declaration was serve as the goal for women’s suffrage movement, but were swallowed by the single issue of slavery and its abolition.

*Mental Illness:*

1. Common belief sustained that the mentally ill were willfully crazy and that they were animals, not human.
2. The consequence for being mentally ill was simply jail, not even given an opportunity to make your case.
3. Dorothea Dix crated a comprehensive report of the state of the mentally ill, underscoring that women were being tortured in these jails
4. Dix’s convinces legislators to establish one of the first asylum’s, a place where the mentally ill can undergo treatment to rid of the psychological aspect that creates such dilapidated conditions.
5. Massive improvements were seen in those in mental asylms.

*Labor*

1. Spread of the idea of wage labors. As the number of factories sprang up in the North, more workers were need to tend to the machines as it was cheaper.
2. Some factories only employed children and women for they provided room and board and attempted to moralize the women with heavy discipline and preachings
3. Labor Strikes became a common occurrence at this point because wealthy business owners hated paying their workers and they would commit illegal crimes ( not paying)
4. Labor Unions, or the National trades Union, became present in the current system to help reform the horrible working conditions, thus establish a ten hour working day.
5. However, it would be many decades before bunions actually gained any real power to bargain effectively.