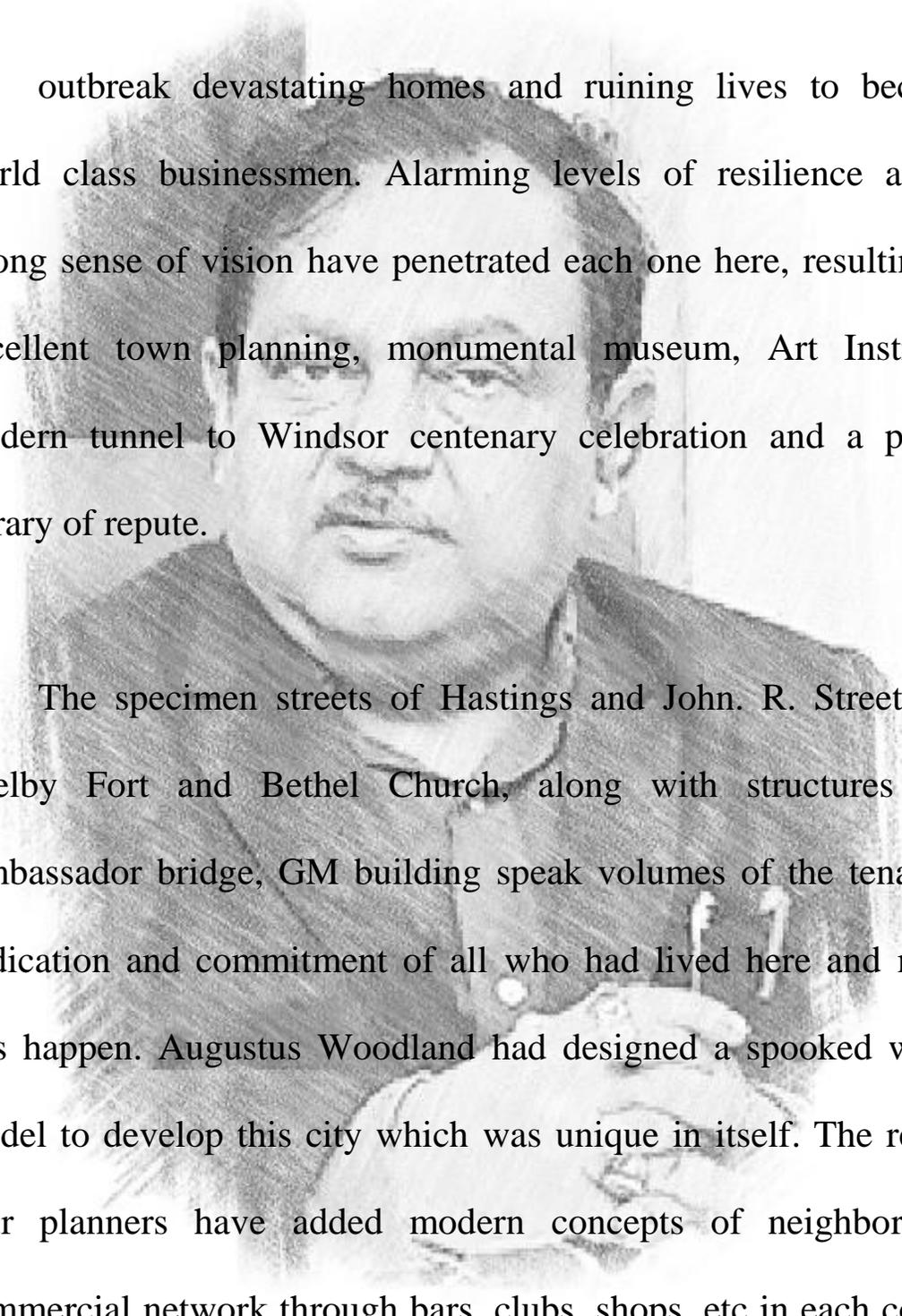


-: A city of Ruins to Riches, from Wars to Cars :-

If anyone has to capture the tumult and growth of a place in a span of 300 years, one should visit Detroit, a riverine city with lakes around situated in USA to the west of Appalachia. Earlier known infamously for swamps and mosquitoes it is now known for automobiles, modern machinery, pharmaceuticals, cigars, shoes, paints, etc. As a resident of Ana Arbor campus, my maiden visit to this town (founded by a French trader named Antoine de la Mothe in 1701) made me soon to discover the greatness of this place. The travelers here have turned settlers, and the residents here had fought for ouster of French and British regimes. Their classical love for freedom and independence found in expression through participation in two World Wars while a penchant to achieve and excel, have helped them since 1805, the year of the fire

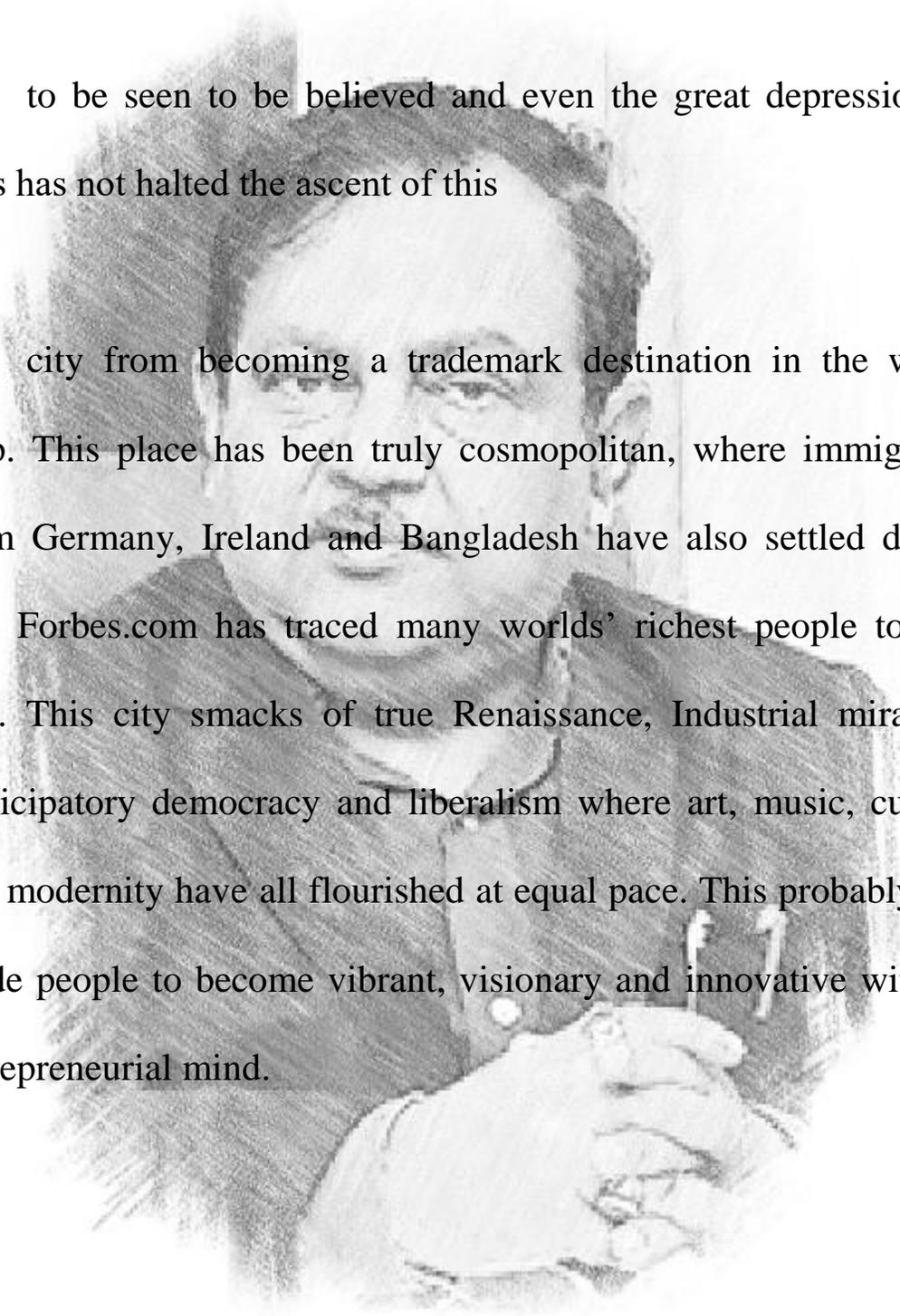


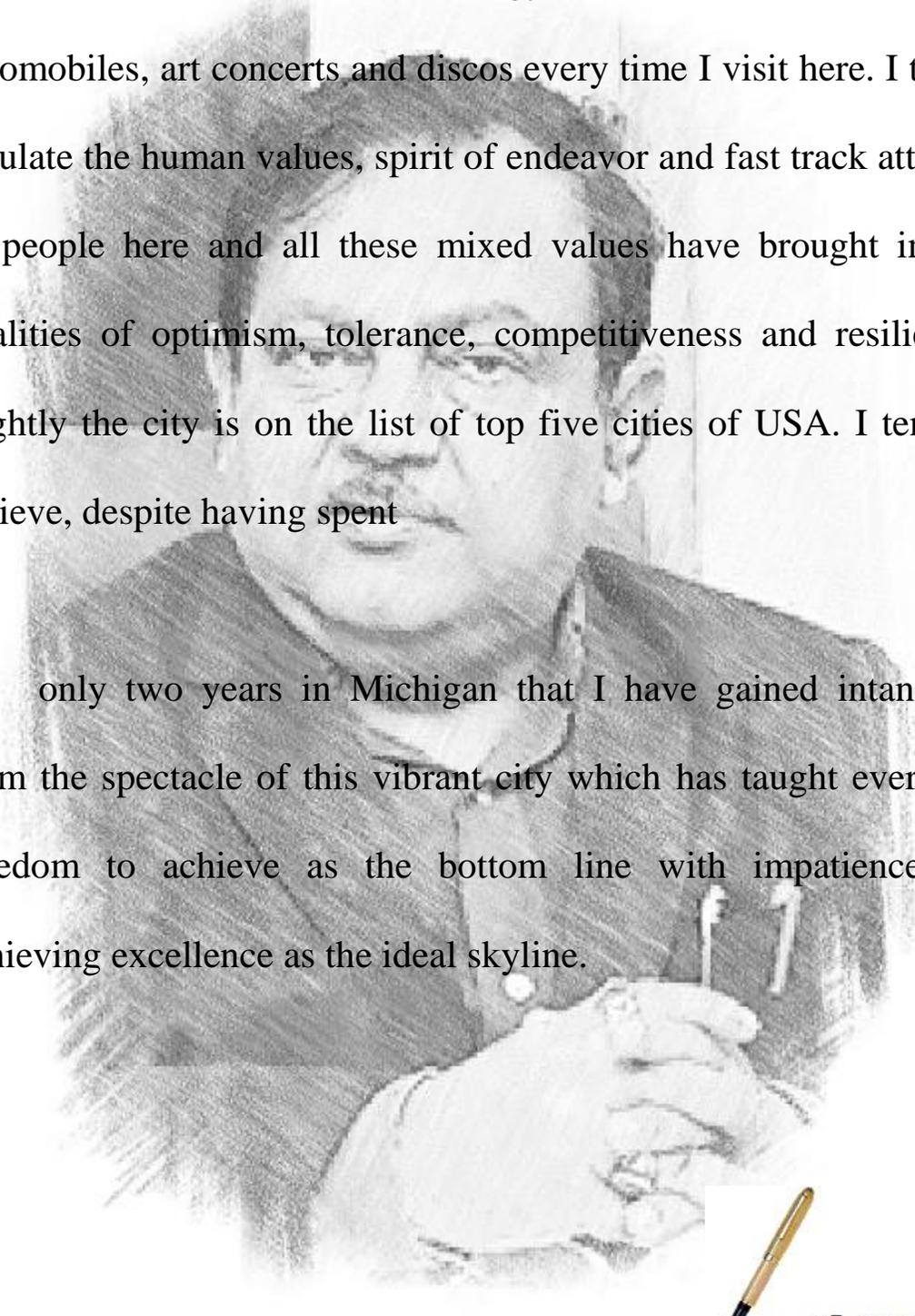
outbreak devastating homes and ruining lives to become world class businessmen. Alarming levels of resilience and a strong sense of vision have penetrated each one here, resulting in excellent town planning, monumental museum, Art Institute, modern tunnel to Windsor centenary celebration and a public library of repute.

The specimen streets of Hastings and John. R. Street, old Shelby Fort and Bethel Church, along with structures like Ambassador bridge, GM building speak volumes of the tenacity, dedication and commitment of all who had lived here and made this happen. Augustus Woodland had designed a spoked wheel model to develop this city which was unique in itself. The recent tour planners have added modern concepts of neighborhood commercial network through bars, clubs, shops, etc in each corner of the city to address the retail needs of neighborhoods. All this has

to be seen to be believed and even the great depression of 30's has not halted the ascent of this

city from becoming a trademark destination in the world map. This place has been truly cosmopolitan, where immigrants from Germany, Ireland and Bangladesh have also settled down. The Forbes.com has traced many worlds' richest people to this city. This city smacks of true Renaissance, Industrial miracles, participatory democracy and liberalism where art, music, culture and modernity have all flourished at equal pace. This probably has made people to become vibrant, visionary and innovative with an entrepreneurial mind.





I hear the sounds of technology and science, cathedrals and automobiles, art concerts and discos every time I visit here. I try to emulate the human values, spirit of endeavor and fast track attitude of people here and all these mixed values have brought in me qualities of optimism, tolerance, competitiveness and resilience. Rightly the city is on the list of top five cities of USA. I tend to believe, despite having spent

only two years in Michigan that I have gained intangibly from the spectacle of this vibrant city which has taught everyone freedom to achieve as the bottom line with impatience for achieving excellence as the ideal skyline.

 - S K Manda