

means of the St. Lawrence; or by numerous Railroads and Canals with the Atlantic sea-board. And herein lies our strength and the hopes of our future. Set aside the advantages of *position* in relation to the neighbouring States of the Union and the ocean, and the progress of this country would be like the slow, yet steady flow of the rivers which glide to the south, compared with the tumultuous rush of those we see hurrying on to the north and west. And what use have we yet made of this great advantage of position? little indeed as yet; but the beginning has been auspiciously entered on, and this advantage will suddenly and convulsively increase to results which at the first glance appear too astonishing and overwhelming for belief. To our east lies a vast consuming country, incapable of satiety; from its circumstances incapable of supplying its own wants; and from a spirit, nay, a necessity of accumulation, always seeking, and instantly absorbing whatever we have to offer. To our South and West, and North-west, lies an equally vast producing country, capable of indefinite extension; and from a spirit of restless activity, and an unquenchable thirst for gain, always producing and setting in motion the accumulations of its industry to supply the necessities of the East, and receiving, as we do, in return, the varied results of mechanical skill. We lie between these extremes; the nearer they are brought to one another, the greater gain to both, and the greater stimulant to both to pursue their incessant interchange of rude industry on the one hand, and capital and skill on the other. We know how astonishingly the influence of rapid and uninterrupted communication between distant centres of industry is developing itself around us; to whatever country we look, examples without number start up before us in testimony of the life and vigour which is infused as soon as rapidity and perfect freedom of communication is established.

The relation of our country to the North-western and Western States of the Union, is most remarkable; and in order to understand this important question in its wide extent, you must familiarize yourself with a few general truths which a little quiet reflection will render almost self-evident. What has led to the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. You will answer, the great mining region of Lake Superior—copper in inexhaustible abundance, and iron distributed in mountain masses, not only on the shores of that cold fresh-water sea, but profusely scattered throughout Northern Michigan and Wisconsin. Think you that the vast demand for iron in the new North-western States will allow those rich mines of metal to remain idle. Will it be cheaper to bring the coal of Illinois and Ohio