

“west; fighting ground to curb and control an ambitious and haughty rival; a growing nation of children as customers; a home for surplus population; a new sanctuary for the free institutions of the old world; a fresh field for practical arts; another and a living reflex of the laws, literature, science, and discoveries with which our ancestors have illustrated the past brilliant history, and adorned the present condition of Europe; and on the other, the protection and security of the British flag, sympathy with British interests, the glorious inheritance of British freedom—the life and impetus of her inimitable constitution; a preference in the British markets; and a friendly brotherhood and relationship in all she is yet to achieve.” Further, let us trust that Queen Victoria in her next speech from the Throne will not fail to re-echo the noble eulogium of her representative already cited in the ears of both branches of the imperial Legislature; on the ground that, taking the period at and the circumstances under which we now live into account, this joint RAILWAY AND COLONISATION PROJECT is second in its importance to none that has ever occupied the attention of the Imperial Legislature, or claimed the support of a great, free, wealthy, intelligent Christian nation. *And why so?* Because, as a frontier means of defence against republican tendencies and aggression in the western hemisphere, the right construction of this main trunk railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific will prove a more enduring and impregnable rampart than was in days of old against hostile inroads the great Chinese wall. Because, as a commercial-nexus, it will bind up indissolubly in ONE mighty Monarchical State the scattered component parts of maritime BRITAIN on both sides of the Atlantic. Because, as a colonisation-lever, it may be so wielded on the broadest platform of the new world as to raise to comfort and independence the million masses of the poor and idle whose condition alike weighs down and dishonours the old. Because, as a pauper-farming and convict-employing expedient, it may be so prosecuted as not only to write up “*Delenda est Inopia et Inertia*” upon the door-posts of every workhouse, jail, and penitentiary in the land, but to extirpate causes which are militant against order, against industry, against morality, such as silently but certainly are effecting *that* within the bounds of the British Islands which Europe armed and at our gates would fail to accomplish. And finally, because by giving free scope to the expansive energies of a RACE yet destined by Providence so to obey the Divine commandment “Be fruitful and multiply—replenish the earth and subdue it,” as to make obedience to the injunction a blessing instead of a curse, it will prove the handmaiden to, and harbinger of, that coming reign of goodwill and peace which is to exalt the closing eras of mankind in that transition stage between time and eternity which it is less our doom than our destiny to overpass.

LONDON,  
28th December, 1854.