

the opening of a highway from ocean to ocean, she does seek to disguise. That these new settlements on our north are yet to become competitors for the trade of the East, if not the commercial supremacy of the Pacific, it were useless to deny. Entrepôts are soon to spring up on these hitherto undisturbed waters; there will be ship-yards and fisheries there, and to these lands will a numerous people go to dwell and to mine, beyond a peradventure. If we imagine such things will not come to pass, or flatter ourselves that we can retard them by our silence or defeat them by our opposition, the sooner we disabuse our minds of these beguillings the better. Yet, in all these aims of England, so bold, far-reaching, and vast, there is really nothing calculated to excite our hostility or alarm our fears; nothing which a magnanimous people should deprecate, or a young and enterprising nation dread.

On the contrary, this opposition is the very thing which, of all others, we most need, and which, instead of proving detrimental to our interests, would serve to promote them in a variety of ways. Of all the nations on the earth we, of California, are suffering the most, from the want of a stimulus to arouse our dormant energies—some outside pressure to terrify us into union and activity. Separated from the older communities, with their schemes of internal improvement and other excitant and energizing agents; penetrated by inert masses of savage and semi-barbarian life, and surrounded on every hand by peoples of low intellectuality and unambitious aims; never did a State so much need the stimulus of a generous rivalry as ours. Out among the islands we encounter an enervated and decaying race, too poor to inflame our cupidity and too imbecile to provoke opposition; while stretched along our south lies poor, ill-faring, ill-fated Mexico, likewise dying, and too far gone to evoke the spirit of "high emprise," or engender a feeling of emulation within us; too far gone to be useful, even as an antagonizing agent, and henceforth to serve only as a sort of territorial catacomb, whence may be dragged a carcass ever as required by that false sense of aggrandizement, which lusts for lands without citizens, and dominion without power.

Thus circumstanced, we are fortunate in having a rival like England to arouse us from our torpidity, to stir our pride and spur us on in the noble contest for opulence and empire. Not only this, but the settlement of those territories so contiguous to our own, must speedily inure the great gain of our people by furnishing a steady and lucrative market for almost every species of their surplus products, especially those of the orchard, the dairy and the farm, since neither of these colonies will be able, for some time at least, to supply their own inhabitants with these staples. In a word, whatever brings immigration to this coast must necessarily advantage California and Oregon, as from them must be obtained

the breadstuffs and other prime articles necessary for their subsistence. And so, again, any large influx of miners or other transient persons drawn this way, whether by the discovery of gold, or other attractions, must, in the end, augment the population of California, since the manifest superiority of her soil and climate will determine many of them to seek her borders when contemplating a permanent settlement.

Wherefore, view it as we may, while we should adhere strictly to facts in speaking of the resources of these colonies, and abstain from all undue effort at encouraging emigration thither, it little behoves the friends of California to underrate the advantages of her northern neighbor or seek to disparage her claims in the estimation of those abroad. It requires but an ordinary share of intelligence to see how certainly our welfare must be promoted by her growth, and how intimately our interests are connected with hers. The peopling of her territories will tend to populate ours; the increase of her affluence will add to our wealth, and the progress of her people must inevitably react on our own.

But however we may regard the advent of England upon our shores, or whatever estimate we may set on the value of her possessions in this quarter, one thing is certain, we have now got to meet her on this side the globe, as we have met her on the other, and encountering her enterprise and capital; her practical, patient industry and persistence of purpose, dispute with her for the trade of the East and the empire of the seas. It is no mean stake to play for this—a traffic which, in the middle ages having successively enriched the commercial republics of Venice, Genoa, and the towns of the Hæmæatic, at a later period promoted Spain and Holland to the pinnacle of maritime greatness, has now come to be the subject of the grandest contest recorded in the history of commercial enterprise. The building of a trans-continental railroad, like the discovery of the Cape, will divert the trade of the Orient into a new channel, scattering affluence along its route and ultimately securing political predominance to the nation who shall enjoy it. Where it runs there will be population, and wealth and power; there will be cities and workshops and cultivated fields, with all the glorious attendants of civilization; and where it terminates there will be the emporium of the Pacific—the permanent metropolis of the Occidental world.

If England shall precede us in the accomplishment of this work she will have gained an advantage which we cannot readily overcome, and which must eventually force us into the rank of a second rate power. As yet, the field is clear, and we have a long way the start, yet all these advantages will be lost if we longer waste our time in idle dalliance, or suffer our action to be impeded by sectional jealousies and distracted councils. The time has come for harmonizing our differences and dismissing