

When the sun goes down in golden glory, and the deepening shadows of the mountains, in the long, purple twilight, creep across the glowing waves, a tender pensiveness falls upon the spirit. The charm of solitude is over all, and the coyness of primeval Nature is felt. It seems, as Milton remarks, like treason against her gentle sovereignty not to seek out these lovely scenes.

I cannot close this paper without casting a thought into the future, as men drop pebbles into deep wells to see what echoes they return. I behold, in imagination, a great confederation of provinces, each larger than a kingdom, stretching from ocean to ocean, traversed by the grandest lake and river system in the world, and presided over, it may be, by a descendant of the august Lady, who to-day graces the most stable throne on earth.

"I hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be,
The first low wash of waves where yet
Shall roll the human sea."

At the present rate of increase, within a century a hundred millions of inhabitants shall occupy these lands. The Canadian Pacific Railway, now under contract, will open a passage from Europe to "gorgeous Inde and far Cathay," seven hundred mile shorter than any other route. A ceaseless stream of traffic shall soon throb along this iron artery of commerce, enriching with its life-blood all the land. Great cities, famed as marts of trade throughout the world, shall stand thick along this highway of the nations; and the names of their merchant-princes shall be "familiar as household words" in the bazaars of Yokohama and Yeddo. A new England, built up by British enterprise and industry, a worthy offspring of that great mother of nations whose colonies girdle the globe, shall hold the keys of the Pacific Sea, and rejuvenate the effete old nations of China and Japan. And across the broad continent a great, free, and happy people shall dwell beneath the broad banner of Britain, perpetuating Christian institutions and British laws and liberties to the end of time.

Amid this material prosperity I discern the truer elements of national greatness. Schools and colleges stand thick through all the land. Graceful spires point evermore toward heaven, and seem to intercede for the cities at their feet. And not least among