

has little prospect beyond a nerveless imbecility." Such were the prevailing anticipations only twenty-five years since, regarding the destiny of the countries on the shores of the Pacific.

It will always be a theme for wonder that by the progress of the arts and sciences within this one hundred years, the shortest route from Europe to China and Japan, to Cathay and India, has been found not in a passage by sea to the north of the continent, but by means of steam-cars on an iron road, through the territory of a people, not then having an independent existence, and now having more than five millions of inhabitants west of the Mississippi.