

give their aid towards the construction of a similar communication across the Isthmus of Panama, where must be incurred a much greater expenditure of money than would serve to build the Railway within our territories, and even then, unless nature herself can be overcome, they cannot attain their object; whilst here, nature invites the enterprise, and where they have no favors to ask of foreign nations, where they will have security that the way shall never be closed to the enterprise of the British merchant, and whereby her possessions upon the Pacific will be secured to Britain for all time to come, and be an additional guarantee for the perpetuity of her dominion upon this continent, it would create a union among all her people which could not be dissolved, with the trade of the world her own forever; cemented by the affections and undivided interest of her subjects in Europe and in Asia, by means of her Canadian Empire, bound together with sinews of iron.

The view that this opens upon the mind, independent of its internal benefits, staggers speculation with its immensity, and stretches beyond all ordinary rules of calculation. The riches of the most unlimited market in the world would be thrown open to it; and obeying the new impulse thus imparted to it, England's commerce would increase until every billow between us and China bore her meteor flag. By the superior facilities conferred upon us, by our position to control the whole Pacific, and the route through our own country, we would become the common carrier of the world.

Again: Vast countries still lie in the fairy regions of the East, the productions and resources of which are scarcely known to us, and only await the civilizing influence of such a scheme as this to throw down the barriers of prejudice and superstition. Of this nature and character is the opulent empire of Japan. Through second but to China itself, it holds no intercourse with foreigners, and only permits one nation to land upon its dominions (the Dutch). Ought it to be too much to hope that thus being brought so near to us, some diplomacy or commercial interests would throw its rich markets open to our enterprise.

The cost of the work, even though it should amount to a hundred millions, is no argument to urge against the undertaking which would render every nation on the globe our commercial tributaries. But this is a most extravagant estimate. It would