

ing Japan the next neighbour of Canada on the west, and offering to Britain a new way to her Eastern possessions; or than the possibility of this Association holding a successful meeting on the other side of the Atlantic? To have ventured to predict such things in 1865, would have appeared quite visionary, yet you are now invited to meet in Australia, and may proceed thither by the Canadian Pacific Railway and its new lines of steamers, returning by the Suez Canal.¹ To-day this is quite as feasible as the Canadian visit would have been in 1865. It is science which has thus brought the once widely separated parts of the world nearer to each other, and which is breaking down those geographical barriers which have separated the different portions of our widely extended British race. Its work in this is not yet complete. Its goal to-day is its starting-point to-morrow. It is as far as at any previous time from seeing the limit of its conquests; and every victory gained is but the opening of the way for a farther advance.

By its visit to Canada, the British Association has asserted its imperial character, and has consolidated the scientific interests of Her Majesty's dominions, in advance of that great gathering of the industrial products of all parts of the empire now on exhibition in London, and in advance of any political plans of imperial federation. There has even been a project before us for an international scientific convention, in which the great English republic of America shall take part, a project, the realisation of which was to some extent anticipated in the fusion of the members of the British and American Associations at Montreal and Philadelphia in 1884. As a Canadian, as a past President of the American Association, and now honoured with the Presidency of this Association, I may be held to represent in my own person the scientific union of the British Islands, of the various Colonies and of the great Republic, which, whatever the difficulties attending its formal accomplishment at present,

¹ It is expected that, on the completion of the connections of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the time from ocean to ocean may be reduced to 116 hours, and from London to Hong Kong to twenty-seven days.