

tory on this continent ranked in extent second only to that of the United States, passed entirely out of existence as quietly as the dead leaves fall to the earth. Not only was this power second to none other but us in the extent of its territory on this continent, but it was not far behind us; for, of the eight million square miles that are called North America, we hold but two millions nine hundred thousand, and that power held two millions four hundred thousand. It was only the extent of half a dozen European States behind; and, if the State of Texas and the territory of Nebraska were left out of our account, that power would have been absolute, almost despotic, over a greater extent of the earth's surface than these great United States. But it has passed out of existence, as we have said, quietly, stealthily even. No earthquakes tolled bells in their shaken towers; there was no social convulsion anywhere, and no

“ ‘Wail of nations o’er its sacred walls.’ ”

It has gone out of existence, and its two millions and over of square miles have passed under the control of the British Government. Here is matter for the supporters of the Munroe doctrine to think over. Added to the four hundred thousand square miles that were before British territory, they constitute the present actual British North America, and leave the United States only one hundred thousand square miles a-head. This would be a piece of land only about the size of the territory of Kansas, or of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales together.

“ We allude to the Hudson’s Bay Company, one of those grand monopolies of the past age. Belonging to a past age, it could not live in this. It died of the railroad and steamboat. All its extensive political power reverted to the British Government, and its other effects have fallen by purchase into the hands of a company whose wealth is said to have no limit, and who intend the development, to its full capacity, of the whole country of Hudson’s Bay ‘and the land it drains.’ Already we begin to see the change that has thus been wrought. Emigration, settlement, development in every way, were discouraged by the Hudson’s Bay Company, which used its whole power to keep the land in its primitive condition, as an immense preserve for the production of fur. Thus, while the United States, side by side with it, have grown to their present condition, that whole country has stood still. Now, however, different ideas prevail, and the movement of progress, that stirs everywhere else in the world, has penetrated that remote region. Thrown completely open to emigration and settlement—to all the various enterprises of capital, and to the enlightenment of a semi-weekly mail—it promises to rival our own growth, and to give us on the north, with British assistance, just such a balance as France and Spain wish to establish at the other side of us. It may be part of a nice European scheme to that effect; but there can be no doubt whatever that this whole change in British North America has been fostered, if not brought about, by the intense desire of the British Government to rival the development of this country.

“ Great Britain, whose capital builds Russian railroads, Oriental packets, and even American locomotives, will spend its money freely in such a cause as this, and has begun well. Scarcely has John Bull looked over this new country, and he projects a Pacific railroad. We have a railroad in progress that is to run from St. Paul, in Minnesota, to Pembina, north-west from St. Paul, and almost on the British line. English