

of the students. The trumpets rang forth in plaintive music—a thousand voices joined in a magnificent chorus—a thousand swords in the pauses of the music clashed together—at a given signal every one flung his torch on high into the air, whirling about through the deep darkness of the night, they looked like so many fiery meteors each emitting, in its descent, a shower of sparks; crossing each other in the air they all fell together forming in the centre of the square a brilliant pile which flared for one brief moment, up into a blaze of light, and then suddenly died away, no unfitting emblem of the career of him whose light of life they had so lately seen extinguished. The assembly then dispersed. This sad story, the features of which are doubtless familiar to any one who has happened to be a traveller in Germany within the last two years, will be recognized by many a reader. Two noble families were plunged into the deepest affliction by the mournful event, and in the course of the last summer, at Berlin, a beautiful girl, in whose faded cheek the lines of sorrow were still recent, was pointed out to us as the once celebrated "flower of the Odentwald."

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POWER AND GREATNESS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

In the American Senate, on the 23th of last month, Mr. Seward made a most eloquent speech on the North West Whale Fishery, and the Commercial and Political relations between Asia and America. In the present number we give the concluding portion of that magnificent oration, which describes in beautiful and thrilling language the power and greatness of the British Empire. This speech is worthy of universal admiration. It is from the lips of an American Senator, delivered in the Senate of his country; but what nobler tribute to the ever-present flag of that country of which we form a part, could have been given by even her most skillful orators. Could the Senate who listened to that noble effort of genius, ever think of embroiling itself in a war with that great power, for any paltry, imaginary grievance. No, it is impossible. The sword, says this orator "is not the most winning messenger to be sent abroad."

Sir, have you looked recently at the China trade? It reaches already seven millions in value annually. Have you watched the California trade? Its export of bullion alone already exceeds \$50,000,000 annually, and as yet the mineral development of that State has only begun. The settlement of the Pacific coast is in a state of abster infancy. There is, speaking relatively, neither capital nor labor there adequate to exhibit the forces of industry that might be employed in that wonderful region. Nor is California yet conveniently accessible. The railway across Panama is not yet completed. The passage through Nicaragua is not perfect; that through Tehuantepec is not yet begun; nor have we yet extended, even so far as the Mississippi, the most important and necessary one of them all, the railroad across our own country to San Francisco. The emigrant to the Atlantic coast arrives speedily and cheaply from whatever quarter of the world; while he who would seek the Pacific shore, encounters charges and delays which few can sustain. Nevertheless, the commercial, social, political move-

ments of the world are now in the direction of California. Separated as it is from us by foreign lands, or more impassable mountains, we are establishing there a custom-house, a mint, a dry-dock, Indian agencies, and ordinary and extraordinary tribunals of justice. Without waiting for perfect or safe channels, a strong and steady stream of emigration flows thither from every State and district eastward of the Rocky Mountains. Similar torrents of emigration are pouring into California and Australia from the South American States, from Europe, and from Asia. This movement is not a sudden, or accidental, or irregular, or convulsive one, but it is one for which men and Nature have been preparing through near four hundred years. During all that time merchants and Princes have been seeking how they could reach cheaply and expeditiously, "Cathay," "China," "the East," that intercourse and commerce might be established between its ancient nations and the newer ones of the west. To these objects DeGama, Columbus, Americus, Cabot, Hudson, and other navigators, devoted their talents, their labours, and their lives. Even the discovery of this Continent and its islands, and the organization of society and government upon them, grand and important as these events have been were but conditional, preliminary and ancillary to the more sublime result, now in the act of consummation—the re-union of the two civilizations which, parting on the plains of Asia four thousand years ago, and travelling ever afterwards in opposite directions around the world, now meet again on the coasts and islands of the Pacific Ocean. Certainly, no mere human event of equal dignity and importance has ever occurred upon the earth. It will be followed by the equalization of the condition of society and the restoration of the unity of the human family. We see plainly enough why this event could not have come before, and why it has come now. A certain amount of human intelligence, a certain extent of human control over the physical obstacles to such a re-union, were necessary. All the conditions have happened and concurred. Liberty has developed under improved forms of government, and science has subjected Nature in Western Europe and in America. Navigation, improved by steam, enables men to outstrip the winds, and intelligence conveyed by electricity excels in velocity the light. With these favouring circumstances there has come also, a sudden abundance of gold, that largely relieves labour from its long subjection to realized capital. Sir, this movement is no delusion. It will no more stop than the emigration from Europe to our own Atlantic shores has stopped, or can stop, while labour is worth there twenty cents, and here fifty cents a day. Emigration from China cannot stop while labour is worth in California five dollars a day, and in the West Indies ten dollars a month, and yet is worth in China only five dollars for that period. Accordingly we have seen sixty-seven ships filled, in three months of the present year, with 17,000 emigrants in the ports of Hong-Kong, Macao, and Wampoa, and afterwards discharged them on the shores of California, and of Cuba and other islands of the West Indies.

Sir, have you considered the basis of this movement, that this country and Australia are capable of sustaining, and need for their development, five hundred millions, while their population is yet confined to fifty millions, and yet that Asia has two hundred millions of excess? As for those who doubt that this great movement will quicken activity and create wealth and power in California and Oregon, I leave them to consider what changes the movements, similar in nature, but inferior in force and slower in effect, have produced already on the Atlantic coast of America. As to those who cannot see how this movement will not improve the condition of Asia, I leave them to reflect upon the improvements in the condition of Europe since the discovery and colonization of America. Who does not see, then, that every year hereafter, European commerce, European thoughts, and European activity, although actually gaining greater force—and European connections, although actually becoming more intimate—will nevertheless ultimately sink its importance; while the Pacific Ocean, its shores, its islands, and the vast regions beyond will become the chief theatre of events in the World's great Hereafter? Who does not see that this movement must effect our own complete emancipation from

what remains of European influence and prejudice, and in turn develop the American opinion and influence which shall remodel constitutional laws and customs in the land that is first greeted by the rising sun? Sir, although I am no Socialist, no dreamer of a suddenly-coming millennium, I nevertheless cannot reject the hope that Peace is now to have her way, and that as War has hitherto defaced and saddened the Atlantic world, the better passions of mankind will soon have their development in the new theatres of human activity.

Commerce is the great agent of this movement. Whatever nation shall put that commerce into full employment, and shall conduct it steadily with adequate expansion, will become necessarily the greatest of existing States; greater than any that has ever existed. Sir, you will claim that responsibility and that high destiny for our own country. Are you so sure that by assuming the one she will gain the other? They imply nothing less than universal commerce and the supremacy of the seas. We are second to England, indeed, but nevertheless, how far are we not behind her in commerce and extent of empire? I pray to know where you will go that you will not meet the flag of England fixed, planted, rooted into the very earth? If you go northward, it waves over half this Continent of North America, which you call our own. If you go southward it greets you on the Bermudas, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean Islands. On the Falkland Islands it guards the Straits of Magellan; on the South Shetland Island it watches the passage round the Horn; and at Adelaide Island it warns you that you have reached the Antarctic Circle. When you ascend along the southwestern coast of America, it is seen at Galapagos, overlooking the Isthmus of Panama; and having saluted it there, and at Vancouver, you only take leave of it in the far Northwest, when you are entering the Arctic Ocean. If you visit Africa, you find the same victorious cross guarding the coasts of Gambia and Sierra Leone and St. Helena. It watches you at the Cape Town as you pass into the Indian Ocean; while on the northern passage to that vast sea it demands your recognition from Gibraltar, as you enter the Mediterranean, from Malta, when you pass through the Sicilian Straits. On the Ionian islands it waves in protection of Turkey; and at Aden it guards the passage from the Red Sea into the Indian Ocean. Wherever Western commerce has gained an entrance to the Continent of Asia, there that flag is seen waving over subjugated millions—at Bombay, at Ceylon, at Singapore, at Calcutta, at Lahore, and at Hong Kong; while Australia and nearly all the islands of Polynesia, acknowledge its protection.

Sir, I need not tell you that wherever that flag waves it is supported and cheered by the martial airs of England. But I care not for that. The sword is not the most winning messenger that can be sent abroad; and commerce, like power, upheld by armies and navies, may in time be found to cost too much. But what is to be regarded with more concern is, that England employs the steam engine even more vigorously and more universally than her military force, steam engines, punctually departing and arriving between every one of her various possessions and her island seat of power, bring in the raw material for every manufacture and supplies for every want. The steam engine plies incessantly there, day and night, converting these materials into fabrics of every variety for the use of man. And again, the steam engine forever and without rest moves over the face of the deep, not only distributing these fabrics to every part of the globe, but disseminating also the thoughts, the principles, the language and religion of England. Sir, we are bold indeed to dare competition with such a power. Nevertheless, the resources for it are adequate. We have coal and iron no less than she, with corn, timber, cattle, hemp, wool, cotton, silk, sugar, oil, and the grape, quicksilver, lead, copper, silver and gold, are all found within our own broad domain in inexhaustible profusion. What energies we have already expended prove that we have in reserve all that are needful. What inventions we have made, prove our equality to any exigency. Our capital increases, while labour scarcely knows the burden of taxation. Our Panama route to China has a decided advantage over that of the Isthmus of Suez, and at the same time