

pie holding the families together, higher and greater than patriotism or love of country.

Even at our revolution there was no English statesman able to consider what a series of communities which, amid all the struggles and trials of early settlement, had risen in a century and a half from a handful to six millions of people would with more favorable circumstances become in another century. There was no man in Great Britain wise enough to look beyond the petty questions on which they imperilled an empire, and to attempt to shape the destinies of America, so as to render it happy in itself and a tower of strength to England.

While Great Britain showed such utter want of statesmen, we look in vain for them in France or Spain. Even Colbert and Talon aimed only at trade. No French minister ever studied for a day how to make the Mississippi Valley the granary, the mine of France. Acquired without an effort on her part, it was as lightly lost. France left England and Spain to plant on the opposite banks of the great river their standards, so typical of adverse ideas, alike only in misgoverning America.

England did nothing for the eastern shore, Spain nothing for the western. We find in that period no great aid rendered to your progress. The foundation of your city was the last wave of the old Canadian element, French in name and origin when the power and the flag of France had fallen.

In the colonies on the coast was the germ of the great republic. An expansion of the old system of communities, it soon swelled beyond the narrow borders hemmed in by the Alleghenies. With this inherent life of its own, absorbing, adapting to its formed community, and imbuing with its spirit every new element it has in a hundred years made the great valley rich beyond compare.

It is not for me to depict what you are today, what the multitudinous States have accomplished and are accomplishing. Still less is it mine to attempt to pierce the future and estimate the greatness of a century hence. I can only rejoice in your greatness and prosperity, and looking back at the progress of two centuries, express my fervent wish and hope that two centuries hence will show undimmed prosperity, founded on the highest and truest principles.