

Atlantic taking this swift route, and that we should have the greater part of the mails transmitted by the same track, when London would thus be brought within seven days of New York. This is no dream. One of the most eminent of living engineers—Mr. Sandford Fleming—has pronounced it quite a practicable achievement thus to establish communication between the two hemispheres. When we can furnish at once the safest and quickest route between the Old and New Worlds, our claims are sure one day to be recognized. But setting this aside for a moment, let us look at our internal condition, as suggesting the necessity for a railroad. What are we going to do with this huge territory of 42,000 square miles? Are we going to leave the interior for ever to the wolves and the deer? Are the fine agricultural districts to remain solitudes, when our own people and the people of other countries, who are in need of bread, would occupy them if they were made accessible, and transform them into smiling farms, and make them the happy homes of men? Must our noble forests be left to rot and burn?—our coal beds and mineral deposits sleep for ever where bountiful nature has stored them? Shall our people cling for ever to the rocky shores, and content themselves with a precarious subsistence derived from the stormy deep? Shame on us if we do not rise to a nobler conception of our destiny as a people, and utilize the gifts of a bountiful Providence. To me it seems that the present generation are brought face to face with the task of constructing a railroad across the island, and that they will prove untrue to their duty if they do not lay aside all party considerations and unitedly and valiantly gird themselves for the work. Think for a moment what the construction of such a railroad means to us! It means the opening up of this great island—the union of its eastern and western shores—the working of its lands, forests and minerals—its connection by a rapid means of communication with the neighbouring continent. It means the increase of its population by a stream of immigration—it means the conversion of the country into a hive of industry, and the commencement of a material prosperity to which we can set no limits. It means employment at good wages to our population—many of whom alas! are now very scantily supplied with the poorest necessities of