

connect the ports of America, Asia, and Australia. Several systems of trans-Pacific cables are already in contemplation, destined to complete the telegraphic unity of the world which already has 170,000 miles of submarine communication—an aggregate length seven times the girdle of the globe. The future commerce of this great ocean is beyond human calculation; its total annual trade already amounting to \$5,000,000,000; while that of Japan alone, which has doubled within ten years has reached \$2,000,000,000.

As if awakened from a marvellous dream to find itself in the presence of a more wonderful reality, the United States emerges from its war with Spain to discover that it has suddenly become one of the greatest oceanic powers of the world, holding on the west, Tutuila, the finest port in the southern Pacific, the Hawaiian islands, Guam and the Philippine archipelago, while its continental coastline of more than five thousand miles, occupies nearly one fourth of the entire Pacific waterway. In Alaska alone, the area of Great Britain, Ireland, the twenty-six states of the German Empire and the whole of France could be delimited without overlapping its borders. On one of its great rivers forty lines of steam vessels are now said to be in operation, and its mineral wealth is believed to surpass all that has been extracted from the territory west of the Mississippi, which would twice pay the cost of the Civil War. In rebuke of our indifference to the value of a great possession, a responsible man of science affirms after personal inspection, that Alaska is "far better country than much of Great Britain and Norway or even parts of Prussia." In the light of the principle laid down by Montesquieu, that "countries are

not cultivated by reason of their fertility, but by reason of their liberty," Alaska, so long treated with contempt, may become in the distant future the home of happy millions, and even the seat of great and powerful states.

No longer a struggling federation of small commonwealths scattered along the Atlantic seaboard, but a great and powerful nation commanding the breadth of the continent and ruling distant islands, what is to be the part of the United States in those great movements which are changing the political and moral geography of the world? Will it endeavor to undo the work of those unseen forces that have thrust it into the forefront of advancing civilization, which is now returning to its cradle in the East after completing the circuit of the globe? Will it follow the counsel of those who oppose the extension of American sovereignty beyond the confines of the continent, and who demand that our flag be lowered before the standards of self constituted chieftains, imagined to embody the sovereignty of a people because they have inflamed with insurrection a single one of eighty-four native tribes, never recognized as a state, nor even constituting a nation, and wholly devoid of public responsibility? When the public archives have told their whole story, it will appear that the treaty of Paris was not a bargain in the interest of trade, but the charter of liberty for twelve millions of human beings gathered under the protecting folds of a flag able to defend them from foreign aggression and domestic anarchy. The one conceivable opportunity for the free development of self-government in the Philippine archipelago, so far as that may be possible, was secured when the sovereignty over those islands passed