

a most valuable contribution of helpfulness: but as a citizen of the Republic, forecasting the future, I cannot see how we can, in justice to that future, do aught to help her or receive help from her, until she becomes politically united with us.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your patient courtesy in hearing me. I thank the gentlemen by whose kindly invitation and public spirit I have been enabled to address you. I have spoken in this Hall before and on themes as grave as may command human attention. But I have never spoken in this Hall or elsewhere on a theme graver or more impressive in its significance to you and our country than the one I have discussed before you to-night.

Before me as I speak I see the picture of the Continent possessed and unpossessed spread out before me. I have traversed it from end to end, from shore to shore. I know it. Above your heads I see it lying as John saw Heaven in vision, vast as a whole, beautiful as to its parts. I see the grandeur of its mountains, the loveliness of its plains, the somber glory of its forests, the silver gleam of its rivers, and the ocean-like spaces of its lakes. I hear the music of its streams, the roar of its water-falls, and the murmur of its populations. The sun rises from between the pillars of the morning, and from mid-heaven looks down upon it with delight. The land he smiles upon, various in its zones, responds to his greeting with its multitudinous growths. And seeing it thus, I say, that to me it seems as the garden of the Lord, as the prolific center of the earth. And over this land of God, this productive center of the world, this refuge of all oppressed peo-