

question, and that we are already very near its lowest probable limit. But if the probable or possible cheapening and facilitating of the transfer of bulky commodities is seen to be thus limited, by irremovable physical conditions, no such limitation attaches to the possibility of transfer of labour, skill, capital, and enterprise, from one country to another. The transfer, for instance, within a very few years, of enough British capital and labour to make Canada another country, almost, is perfectly within the limits of physical possibility. Its degree of moral probability, quite another question, has nothing to do with the point now urged, which is merely that while the facility of transfer of commodities is limited by physical conditions, the facility of transfer of most staple manufactures, of the most necessary branches of industry, practically limited by human action mainly, has before it unknown possibilities. We have but to reflect a little on the evident tendency of expanding commercial enterprise; on the influence of modern improvements in travelling, and communication of ideas; on the results of social and political movements, to realize something of the vast importance of the distinction here pointed out, and of its probable bearing on the future history of nations.

Of course, it is not to be forgotten that there *are* physical conditions which limit the transfer of certain industries. For instance, a New York Free Trade paper, the *League*, recently made the alarming discovery that the Williamantic Mills, protected by an enormous duty on foreign sewing thread, were working against Nature, trying in vain to make thread equal to that made at Paisley, which positively cannot be done in these latitudes and longitudes, owing to subtle, yet powerfully-operating climatic influences. The *League* might have gone further, and informed its readers that not even in Manchester, with the same hands, the same machinery, and the same cotton, can a thread be spun of fineness equal to what can be spun in Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire. We could not, probably, make thread like the Paisley thread here; and people are recommended not to try. But what carloads and shiploads of many useful cotton fabrics we *might* make here, just as well as they do "at home," had we but a good start in the business!

Perhaps the most remarkable instance on record of the transfer,