

tions sent there could be used for no other part of the coast, for Vancouver overlooks them. They could not, on account of Vancouver in its military aspects, be sent from the Northern terminus to San Francisco and the South; nor could the Southern road—supposing only one, and that at the South—send supplies in war from its terminus, whether at San Diego or San Francisco, by sea either to Oregon or Washington—Vancouver would prevent, for Vancouver commands their coasts as completely as England commands those of France on the Atlantic. So complete is this military curtain, that you never heard of France on the Atlantic sending succour by sea to France on the Mediterranean, or the reverse, in a war with England. The Straits of Fuca are as close as the Straits of Gibraltar.” Here is the opinion of an American, and a most competent person, who judges the case from a far higher point of view than some of our English statesmen:—

But what would become of the Dominion and of her loyal feelings towards the mother country, if after being elevated by England almost to the state of an independent nation, she were to be all at once deprived by our neglect of this communication with the Pacific, as well as of the intervening Saskatchewan Territory, ‘both so essential,’ as I wrote not long ago, ‘to her development, to her maritime prosperity, her independence, nay, to her very existence. The interests of Canada and British Columbia, however identical with those of the mother country (a thing which England will find out one of these days), are generally overlooked or neglected in this country. And yet British America is one in interest, and together with the mother country, must be one in purpose, if the danger with which both are menaced is to be averted.’ And for that purpose, the different provinces of British North America must not only be politically united, and that speedily, so as to form a whole; but must at the same time, and in a commercial point of view, be more directly and intimately connected with each other and with the mother country through regular steam communication. By these means British influences would be naturally fostered and maintained, and immigration from the home country promoted; until a friendly but independent power could be gradually developed in British America, which would not only be no longer at the mercy of the neighbouring Republic, as some pretend, but would, on the contrary, form an important counterpoise to that of the United States, and an additional guarantee for the peace of the world.

Nor is there anything far-fetched in such a prevision, which is fairly justified by the astonishing progress which Canada has made within the last twelve years (see Statistics in Appendix F); a progress greater in proportion, both morally and materially, than that in the United States. In travelling through Canada one feels at every step that she must become a great nation, in spite of all obstacles; and at the same time different in its origin, its associations, its feelings, and character, from that of the United States. Nobody can estimate the value of such a political element, or what such a country may become. As long as that counterpoise on the American Continent existed, the power of the Republic would be broken, whilst England would be mistress of a