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AN ADDRESS ON ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

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Mr. President and Gentlemen:

Every gardener knows that a plant long grown on the same soil rises or sinks or somehow or other gets to a level from which it varies not so long as its conditions remain the same, and he knows as well that if he takes that plant to a new soil which suits it—if he grows it under new conditions—its growth, change, and development are practically endless. What we know of plants is, within limits, true of humanity; and if we require proof and illustration of this, where need we go but to this endless continent of yours.

I am not at present concerned with natural boundaries created by languages which come from Sweden and Poland, Denmark and Scotland, Russia and Ireland, which temporarily limit intercourse between different peoples who perhaps settled here. Still less do I trouble about a line on the map which marks a practical Republic on the south from a splendid Democracy on the north. I have only to do with the great fact of human history—I think the greatest fact—that from out of the troubles and distresses of our eastern countries, or out of countries oppressed by over-population, and still more by the effete policies of governments

of past centuries dislocated into modern life, from these there has come a great country and a great people, whose growth, change, and development promise to be practically endless.

Of my own country and my own people you will not expect me—you would not wish me—to say anything disparaging. We are an old and a respectable race, and, by virtue of your descent, you share that age, and you have brought over with you a full measure of the respectability. But in transit you have lost that questionable virtue of extreme conservatism which we retain in every conceivable phase of life. We used to have mail coaches protected against robbers by armed men, properly called guards, and we continue to call our railway servants guards without the slightest reason save that they seem to be in some fashion successors to the blunderbus-bearers of the eighteenth century. On the other hand, you very properly call the same officials conductors. We still build our railway carriages in compartments fitted to hold six people, confined boxes that are stuffy, inconvenient, wasteful of room, and dangerous, and we do this only because one hundred years ago we built our stage coaches on the same pattern, and we thought, and we continue to think, that by sticking three of these old coaches end to end we must of necessity construct the very best kind of vehicle for railway travelling. Untrammelled by tradition, you have continued to build carriages far more convenient and suitable in every way. You have even sent them over to England for our use some ten