

nor is it immigration, nor long periods of peace, nor absence of large standing armies which eat up the country, and multiply taxes, burdensome to all forms of industry; nor free institutions, which dignify the individual, and make the masses intelligent and content. No! There is another and the chiefest cause, without which in full operation all other ones were vain; and this prime cause of American prosperity is this: The free interchange of products and commodities between all sections of the country. This is the vital force which, in this country, has quickened all other forces, kept the whole body politic in glowing health; stimulated all growth, and charged the veins of our vast industrial organism with vitalizing vigor. Nineteen-twentieths of all our commerce is interstate commerce. Only one twentieth goes abroad. Free trade, absolutely free, without let or hindrance, untaxed, unvexed by custom restrictions, unchecked by Governmental interference at any point within our vast domains, has given to every branch of business, to every form of industry, to every species of enterprise, the phenomenal development which, in the tremendous aggregate of results, totalizes a summation that astounds the world and makes a demonstration, against which all argument is puerile. Because of this all parts have grown with the growth of the whole, the whole been prospered with the prosperity of the parts; each note being full and clearly sounded, joined in harmonious connection with all other ones, has swelled the volume to a perfect anthem whose waves of concordant sounds roll round the world. What would New England have been shut off by a line of custom houses from