

pend upon the work of the Church of Christ in this country in the near future; and the history of the West will be to a great extent the history of the whole country, for the West will be the controlling power not many years hence.

II. *Because of the great importance of gaining this wonderful land as an ally in the evangelization of the world.* Look at

(a) Its extent. Equal to eighteen States like Spain, thirty-one like Italy, and sixty-six like England and Wales, Texas alone would cover a good part of Europe, excluding Russia. You might take five of the first-class powers of Europe—viz., Great Britain and Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy, and then add Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Denmark, and they would all be contained in the United States, once, twice, thrice. This country has an area, excluding Alaska, of two million, nine hundred thousand square miles, of which more than two millions is cultivable, and the remainder is rich in pasturage, minerals, etc. It has forty thousand miles of river, a chain of great lakes on the north, a great gulf on the south, and on either side an ocean, so that it is bound to be a commercial as well as an agricultural country; and then it is one continuous territory, not broken up into little bits as the great Empire of Britain. It was Mr. Gladstone who said, "Other things being equal, it is the country with a continuous territory that will in the end gain the ascendancy and control."

(b) Its resources. It has already, with only a small portion of its soil cultivated, become the granary of the world. Six hundred millions of bushels of wheat and more than a billion bushels of corn are but the "first-fruits" of the great harvest of which it is really capable. Millions upon millions of horses and cattle, hogs and sheep, chickens and geese, are but an earnest of what will some day be found between these oceans, and between the lakes and the Gulf; and besides this great agricultural wealth it is no less rich in tim-

bers and minerals. It has enough iron ore to last the world thousands of years. It has five times as much coal as Europe. It has copper, lead, tin, and other ores in great abundance. It already furnishes half of the gold and silver of the world. Its assessed valuation is about twenty-four billion, two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, which is estimated to have a real value of about sixty-three billion, six hundred million dollars, or just about one thousand dollars to every man, woman, and child of the entire country. This is an amount almost sufficient, it has been said, to buy all the countries of Europe, excepting Great Britain. It is the youngest and yet the richest of all the great nations on the face of the globe. This immense wealth will have much to do either in advancing or retarding the progress of the Gospel of King Jesus.

(c) Its location. Much depends upon the location of a country. The great nations of the world, those that have most deeply marked its history, have lain between the twenty-fifth and sixty-fifth degrees of north latitude. In this belt were Assyria, Syria, Babylonia, Tyre, Greece, Rome, Carthage, and Upper Egypt. Of this favored belt of the earth's surface the United States have about one third, excluding oceans.

(d) Its people. It has been said by historians that the mixed races have always been the hardiest and most enterprising. We are a more thoroughly mixed people than any the world has ever yet seen, and we are not going to break this testimony of history. A great portion of the great inventions of this century are by Americans. The steamboat, the mower, reaper and binder, the telegraph and ocean cable, the telephone and electric light and motor, are some of them. The United States issue four times as many patents as England. They also lead the world in manufacturing. So we have not only a wonderful country, but also a wonderful people.

(e) Its future possibilities. These can