

and say the City of God is to be so and so, surrounded with a jasper wall two hundred and sixteen feet high—such a literal style of interpretation would destroy the whole teaching of the word. In these symbols of the unseen, God does not so much address the reason as the imagination of men; and through the imagination he would feed the faith of his people, and lift their affections to a glory which eye hath not seen, which ear hath not heard, and which hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive. The striking thing about this city or country which John saw in vision, was its magnitude; and yet it is not nearly so large as that country which we call the Dominion of Canada. Fifteen hundred miles would scarcely reach from Halifax on the east to Winnipeg on the west—that would do little more than span half the length of the Dominion. We have a country more than twice the size of the Golden City of Revelation—a country nearly equal to that of Europe, and something larger than that of the United States! To be sure a large portion lying to the north is of but little value; but making every allowance that justice can demand, we have still a very great country, rich in minerals, fertile in soil, and wonderful in the wealth of its resources—a country, it is said, capable when fully developed, of sustaining one hundred millions, although we have only about four millions now. Russia, inferior in respect to natural advantages, sustains eighty millions with its three hundred millions of acres of arable land. We have more and better land, it is said, lying in the route of the projected Pacific Railroad. Let us not despise the day of small things. The time was, when Great Britain was very small among the nations; when London was small, and Glasgow, and Edinburgh; when the schools and colleges, were of no account; and the question is not what the country is *now*, but what it may become to the *generations following*—what it may become in the hands of a valiant, virtuous, God-fearing population. What other nation in the world has such a field for extension, development, and material prosperity? Our neighbors on the other side have; yes, and that even in a higher degree. But the want of coherence in their institutions and stability in their government, together with the explosive character of some of its elements, is a drawback which cannot be compensated by their otherwise superior natural advantages. Take these things into view, in connection with our relations to England, under whose shadow we repose so safely, and you will sing to-night with a joyful strain: "Walk about Zion, go round about her, mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, etc."

In the next place, the growing prosperity of this young country for the last few years, has been the theme of very general congratulation. Trade has been growing on every hand. The lumber business, the mineral business, the banking business, the woollen business, and the shipping business, have all been making great strides. Think of