

shall call its resources into life, reducing to the service of man the forests and prairies of its American shores—when the voice of the ocean's waves, no longer echoed by the silent rocks, shall be repeated by the busy murmurings of human life—when the steam-vessel shall foam along the path where the canoe now glides, and the wharf and the palace shall supplant the wigwam and the pine tree—it may be told, at such a time, that your Corporation, guided by a wisdom which enabled it to meet every emergency, changing its policy with the changing spirit of the age, forgetting its ancient exclusiveness in the consciousness of new responsibility, refreshing its energy with the increasing demands of society—it may be told that you established upon these now remote shores, the fathers of a great empire, and that by a wise and generous policy you guided their youthful energies.

This is what you may do ; but, should you neglect to fulfil these high duties which have been allotted to you, do not fancy that you can frustrate the expectations, the necessities of the future. You may retard, you cannot prevent ; others will fulfil what you neglect. The destinies of man will be accomplished—to go forth and replenish the earth. The car of society will roll on ; you may help to drag it if you will—you may direct its course, but stay its progress you cannot ; linger in its path, and it will crush you to atoms.