

the sea, as it is from that oceanic atmosphere which is experienced in islands far out in the ocean, and which, by its excessive moisture, has a tendency to render the inhabitants lethargic and apathetic. With all these advantages, you will readily perceive that Europe was the fitting cradle and home of those mighty nations which, by the sword of the conqueror, or the pen of the writer, or the hand of the artizan, have graven deep their story in the imperishable records of the race. Of these different causes, the one perhaps which most of all conduced to the greatness of Europe was the facility of intercourse among its different peoples. "Men run to and fro, and knowledge is increased." Such is the utterance of Divine wisdom, and such has been the lesson taught us by all history. It is as impossible for a nation, as for an individual, to grow to greatness by itself. The man who goes not forth to commune with his brother men—to sharpen his intellect, and enrich his store of knowledge by the mutual exchange of ideas—to gather the ripe fruits of experience left him by his fellows, becomes a mystic and a dreamer; one who can never be fit to play his part in the great drama of real life. And so it is with nations. If, either by natural barriers, or national ignorance or prejudice, they are shut in on their own ideas, their own resources, their own plans of action, then they can never hope to rank high in the muster roll of nations. Happy is it for a nation or a continent when nature has paved the way, by her wise arrangements, for the free interchange of commodities and ideas.

And now let us take a brief survey of some of those countries which have played the chief parts in European history. And first let us turn our attention to a certain island in the German Ocean, whose name must be dear to most, if not to all, of those to whom I speak; dear to some by cherished memories of childhood and of home, by well-remembered visions of a quiet English village, or peaceful farm-house, or thriving town or crowded city, where dwell those towards whom their hearts are ever turning, reaching with their arms of love across the wide expanse of sea and land which stretch between them; dear to others by the heritage of a glorious name, a birthright of honour and renown, which is the noblest

legacy handed down from British sire to Canadian son, and which is the peculiar property and most precious possession of every son and daughter of our new Dominion. Let us seek to discover some of the physical causes which, along with other causes of no less importance, have conduced to place England in the proud position she occupies in this nineteenth century, and to make her the nation which she is to-day—a nation which has given to the world its bravest soldiers and its ablest statesmen, which has bestowed on literature its brightest ornaments, and which has given to science and philosophy some of their profoundest thinkers and most ardent disciples; a nation whose keels plough the waves of every sea; a nation which, by her manufactures and her commerce, has amassed wealth surpassing far the fabled riches of Ormuz and of Ind; and, above all, a nation which has been privileged to be the missionary nation of the world—one which, under God, has carried the old, old story of the Gospel far and wide—whose sons have borne the standard of the Cross through burning heat and Arctic cold, through storm and tempest, through danger and through death, till to-day that standard waves from the frozen shores of the Hudson's Bay to the coral isles of the South—from the palm groves of India to the pine-clad slopes of the Pacific.

In the first place, we remark that England is almost in the centre of the land hemisphere—the great heart of the world, from which are sent out the veins and arteries of commerce and of enterprise. Again, though lying between the same parallels of latitude as the country round the Hudson's Bay, the climate of the British Isles is rendered moderate and equable not only by the near presence of the sea, but also by the influence of the Gulf Stream, whose waters, carried like a mighty river across the ocean from the Gulf of Mexico, preserving their warmth to a great extent, strike first the shores of Ireland, making it, indeed, an emerald isle, and then wash the coast of England. There are three causes which go to make England the manufacturing country which she is. First, her jagged and deeply indented coastline, bringing her at every point near the sea. That great highway of the nation made it, in the first place, easy for her to bring to her great manufacturing centres the raw material from India and America; and, in