

France of the enormous territory then called Louisiana, the very heart of the continent, now comprising fifteen states and one territory, having an area of eleven hundred and eighty thousand square miles and being five times greater than the area of France. Then followed the acquisition of the Floridas with the complete southern maritime frontiers upon the Gulf of Mexico. Next in order was the acquisition of Texas, a territory greater than that of the German Empire. This was followed by the acquisition of California and of New Mexico and of Arizona. Lastly, by the purchase of Alaska, we extended our dominion over a territory entirely disconnected from the main body of our country, but still on the North American continent. With a territory of only 827,844 square miles in 1783 the dominion of the United States was steadily extended so that in less than one hundred years it comprised 3,603,884 square miles, or more than four times its original territory.

With the exception of Canada on the north and Mexico on the south, our dominion has been thus constantly extended over the entire North American continent. In the light of history, therefore, the policy of the United States seems to have been unvarying and persistent in favor of an extension of its dominion, at least as far as the North American continent is concerned. Had it not been for this policy and its constant application, sometimes in a manner of more than doubtful constitutionality, our country would but own a fragment of its present possessions. Its position among the great nations of the earth would be one of but secondary importance, nor would we have been enabled to enjoy the blessings of peace with our neighbors, nor those of the highest agricultural and commercial prosperity. It is idle to conjecture what our lot would have been had not the patriots and statesmen from the earliest days to this been imbued with the necessity, not only from a selfish standpoint, with extending the