

ish islands, whose language we speak, and who "people the world with men industrious and free." The identity of language in contiguous countries is a fair exponent of the tendency to amalgamation. It generally implies great similarity, if not identity, of religion, laws, and habits, the essential elements of thorough fusion.

#### NATURAL COMMERCIAL RELATION.

Apart from the artificial regulations by customs-duties, the exchanges of the products of labor between the people of the United States and their neighbors on the north would be as intimate and, in proportion to the population, at least as various and comprehensive, as those of the States of our Union with each other. In fact the commercial relations of our northern, northwestern, and eastern States with the Dominion of Canada, if left simply and without obstruction to the practical test of benefits or profits given and received by the people of both countries, would be more close and intimate than those between most parts of the Union. The great lakes, which for some thousands of miles politically separate us, are themselves among the cheapest and most useful means of intercommunication for the northwestern and eastern States, and, with the majestic river through which their waters flow, have long furnished, by aid of short canals, one of the most important channels of trade and travel from the interior to the ocean, and thence to the chief markets of the world.

Nearly three-fourths of the people of the Dominion inhabit a territory in latitudes south of our boundaries in Maine and Minnesota. Across this region, and especially the peninsula between Lakes Huron and Michigan, is the direct line of communication between the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York on the one side, and Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and all our Territories west of them on the other.

#### IMPORTANCE OF FREE EXCHANGES WITH CANADA TO ALL PARTS OF THE UNION.

Great as the value of transit through Canada is to our people, similar freedom through our territory is perhaps even more important to the Canadians. Excepting the maritime provinces, the whole of the British North American possessions until they approach the Pacific Ocean is dependent upon the railroads, canals, rivers, and other means of communication in the United States for the shortest routes to the ocean. Fortunately, what is in this respect almost the necessity of the Canadians is one from which must result the employment of our people and profit to our forwarders on such a scale that it will confer conspicuous national benefit upon us if we do not prevent the natural interests of the people from attaining due and harmonious development. More than that, the great natural, permanent system of exchanges is between the North and South; their productions being necessarily distinct, and modern civilization having rendered them practically necessities of life to the people of each region.