

equal treatment which equity demands.

And this new era of world-wide commerce which is now about to dawn is only the natural sequence of our continental development, the fulfilment of early tendencies and prophecies. In 1830 de Tocqueville wrote: "The Americans themselves now transport to their own shores nine-tenths of the European produce which they consume; and they also bring three-quarters of the exports of the New World to the European consumer." "Nations, as well as men," he continues, "almost always betray the prominent features of their future destiny in their earliest years. When I contemplate the ardor with which the Americans prosecute commerce, the advantages which aid them and the success of their undertakings, I cannot help believing that they will one day become the first maritime power of the globe. They are born to rule the seas, as the Romans were to conquer the world."

With ample territory, and coveting the land of no other nation, with inexhaustible treasures of coal, iron and timber, with industries capable of supplying the markets of the world, midway between the Atlantic and the Pacific, in the zone of maximum efficiency, the American people, cosmopolitan in origin and sympathies, are, without question, destined to become a great power on the sea.

The extension and enlargement of political obligations and commercial interests can have but one effect upon our national life and public character; for a nation great enough to bear it is always elevated and strengthened by responsibility. The increasingly delicate poise and growing magnitude of private business have always demanded more capable and honorable administra-

tion, and it cannot be otherwise in our public life. In commonplace circumstances any man will do, but in great emergencies none but real men are wanted. Cabinet ministers, governors-general and diplomatic and consular officers must henceforth be men of the highest ability and character; for the country can supply them, and the people will demand them. The exuberant prodigality of American character may consent to entrust domestic affairs to unknown and untried men; for if we are robbed it is only by our friends and neighbors! But when complications with foreign powers arise, when the rights of the defenceless are in question, when the whole world is watching our conduct and sitting in judgment upon our motives, the pride of the nation will demand that the representatives of its honor be loyal to their sacred trust.

More than any other human institutions, those of education connect the present with the past, and the past with the future. More than any others, they represent the highest and most general interests of humanity, and the degree in which their influence is felt is the best measure of the height to which civilization has attained. Never before in the development of our country, never before in the history of the world, have men of liberal training and high discipline been so much in demand for public service as at the present time.

As the mariner, when beyond the sight of land, looks up for guidance to the sun and stars, a nation, in great emergencies, instinctively returns to cardinal principles, and puts its faith in its most tried and trusted citizens. Aiming at peace, as the one essential condition for the enjoyment of liberty; at order, as the one indispensable necessity