

stocks and bonds, books and pictures, free libraries, and university endowments. What we are proud of is not big armies, big navies, big ships of war, big battles and big victories; but big trade, big profits, big harvests, big cities, big inventions, big commercial ventures, and a big census, which doubles up the millions of happy, prosperous citizenship every twenty years. Our politics are not ideal; our administration of government not perfect; our congressional action hurtfully affected by partisanship; and much might be found to satirize in our management of public affairs; but through all the mass of a great nation's doing and thinking; through all the teachings of the press, platform and pulpit; and through all the blundering of Congressional action, runs, clearly visible, like a thread of gold in coarse black cloth, the noble purpose to serve the people, make them secure in all their rights, and prosperous in all their honest undertakings. Schemes of conquest are never debated in our Congress. Warlike alliances are not made. A standing army is an unthought-of thing. Church extension is not regarded as connected with politics. Titles and strips of ribbons laughed at as ridiculous, in the eyes of sensible men, and the only throne fit to aspire to is that high eminence builded on ten millions of free ballots.

Such is the type of empire which we of the United States—we who have developed from the thirteen English Colonies which revolted from the mother country—are building up on the basis of popular suffrage, the wish and wisdom of the people expressed in ballots; and our Canadian neighbors,