

Foreword

"Thy very greatness renders me more clamorous. For with it thou art narrow, superstitious, blindly exclusive.

"Thy system of government is effete; thy officials are driven to rapacity and plunder; when thou shouldest have enough and to spare, thy system of taxation makes thee a borrower from many nations; rich beyond estimate in undeveloped resources, masses of thy people ofttimes hunger for food; thou worshipest thou knowest not what.

"I bring thee unstinted communication with the world of which thou art but a part; power to see the untold wealth of coal and minerals which lies at thy feet; manufactories to facilitate thy industries; railroads to aid thy commerce; knowledge of less wasteful modes of collecting thy revenue; skill in the science of war that thou mayest guard thy peace.

"I, the Spirit of the age, hold these gifts for thee in my outstretched hands. Thou spurnest them at thy peril. Thinkest thou that by whetting thy sword to kill my heralds thou wilt balk my designs? Believe it not. The