

peace, of universal brotherhood, may come. Should it not, and should Republican America throw herself into the contest against England, when engaged with other powers, as she did in 1812; what then would be England's position should the noble Provinces of North America have been flung away, for want of a little foresight and common sense?

The power of the Republic would be broken if our half of the continent maintained its allegiance. But if that were thrown into the other scale, what then? Fancy the stars and stripes floating over our six thousand vessels; fancy five hundred thousand hardy North Americans with arms in their hands in a defiant attitude; fancy half a continent with its noble harbors and five thousand miles of sea-coast, with all its fisheries and coal mines and timber gone. Fancy the dockyards and depots and arsenals of the enemy advanced 1,000 miles nearer to England. Oh! sir, I have turned with disgust from the eternal gabble about the balance of power in Europe, when I have thought how lightly British statesmen seem to value the power that can alone balance their only commercial rival.

One subsidy to some petty European potentate has often cost more than all our railroads would have cost; and yet they would have developed our resources in peace and formed our best security in time of war. A single war with half this continent added £120,000,000 to the national debt of England. What would a war with the whole of it cost? And yet these Provinces are so lightly valued, that a loan for public improvements cannot be guaranteed or a single seat in the National Councils yielded, to preserve them. Sir, whatever others may think, I pause in the presence of the great peril which I foresee. I pray to God that it may be averted.

Here, sir, is work for the highest intellects—for the purest patriots, on both sides of the Atlantic. Here is a subject worthy of the consideration of the largest minded British statesmen now figuring on the stage of public life. In presence of this great theme, how our little squabbles sink into insignificance, as the witches' cauldron vanishes from the presence of Macbeth. How insignificant are many of the topics which they debate in the Imperial Parliament compared with this. I have seen night after night wasted while both Houses discussed the grave question whether or not a Jew should sit in the House of Commons? a question that it would not take five minutes to decide in any Legislature from Canada to California. How often have I said to myself:—I wonder if it ever enters the heads of those noble Lords and erudite Commoners, who are so busy with this Jew that there are two millions and a half of Christians in British America who have no representation in either House? A little consideration given to that subject, I have thought, would not be a waste of time. When I have seen them quibbling with the great questions of a surplus population, mendicancy and crime, I have asked myself:—Do these men know that there is, within the boundaries of the empire, within ten days' sail of England, employment for all? freehold estates for all, with scarcely a provocative to crime? I have often thought, sir, how powerful this empire might be made; how prosperous in peace, how invincible in war, if the statesmen of England would set about its organization and draw to a common centre the high intellect which it contains.

With our maritime positions in all parts of the globe; with every variety of soil and climate; with the industrial capacity and physical resources of two hundred and sixty millions of people to rely on; what might not this empire become if its intellectual resources were combined for its government and preservation? If the whole population were united by common interests, no power on earth ever wielded means so vast, or influence so irresistible. But, sir, let the statesmen of England slumber and sleep over the field of enterprise which lies around them; let them be deluded by economists who despise Colonists, or by fanatics who preach peace at any price with foreign despots;