

great gulfs into which they empty? Shall not the time come, when, by the skill of men assisting these noble water courses, ships of five thousand tons shall steam from Liverpool, steer straight west to Labrador, and still westward until they moor at Chicago wharves without breaking freight, and thence, reloaded, go downward to the Southern Gulf, and so command the commerce of all ports through every parallel of latitude in shortest, quickest, easiest voyagings? Is not this the logic of their size, their direction and the union of their springs at the cereal centre of the world? Look at the Lakes, Memphramagog, Champlain, the Horicon, Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, Superior, where are they placed and where do they empty to the salt sea? You might as well tie knots in the red arteries midway between heart and hands, between vital centre and extremities of the human body, as draw a line of stoppage across these natural channels of popular communication and commercial exchanges. Listen to the testimony of the Plains, that seamless robe of unity which some politicians would scissor through, and of a lovely whole, woven of God, make two ravelled edges. What sound reason is there for such dismemberment; such dislocation of natural members; such absurd partition of a noble whole? If it must needs be, what a pity it must be. For never did man see a lovelier evidence of God's design and Nature's unity, than stretches, green as a sleeping sea, from Southern Gulf to the white line of northern snow, making in itself a prairie empire that would feed half the world. Consider also the law which governs commerce and decides the volume and direc-