

rich jewel, the diadem of a Christian queen, the sway of whose sceptre recognises not the setting of the sun.

We may, for the present, regard Gibraltar as being the medium point between the United Kingdom and the West Coast of Africa, steam having been already introduced in that quarter through the medium of war steamers, whose attention, as far as their crews are concerned, is turned chiefly, if not solely, to the acquirement of prize-money, though the ships themselves are meanwhile performing a far higher and nobler service, by annihilating the traffic in slaves, which is the first step towards the advancement of civilization in that quarter, and causing a more speedy and regular communication to be maintained between all those ports respectively, which are but thinly scattered along that, to Europeans, at least, ill-favoured shore. Those vessels, like those in the Mediterranean Sea, may, under present circumstances, be considered as the vehicles for the conveyance of intelligence merely, as armed mail-boats, and such is the best service on which it is possible to employ them; as whenever the interests of the service to which they may be said more immediately to belong, will admit of its being put in practice, the instruments of warfare should necessarily, and as far as may be possible, invariably be rendered subservient to the nobler arts of peace.

Thus far, of the United Kingdom as the centre of steam communication,—and I trust I have in some measure succeeded in elucidating my subject, as I at first proposed,—I cannot, however, conclude this brief epistle, without making an attempt to direct the imagination by means of ‘a formula’—if I may so term it—to that state of things which more nearly concerns us, natives of, or residents in these countries; and this I shall the more readily undertake to do from an impression, that having perused thus far you run no risk of losing much time by continuing to the end. In conclusion then, I shall observe, that these kingdoms, as I have already shewn, form the nucleus of the world in every sense—the converging point of nations, as well as the radiating point of Christianity and civilization. Let us, however, for present purposes, leave Great Britain to take care of herself (as she is well able to do), and regarding the Isle of Man as the focal point for the imaginations of individuals generally, as it is in fact that of the United Kingdoms in the geographical sense (see “Hope for the Irish”), turn our attention to that which may possibly more especially concern us as Irishmen.

We take, then, the city of Dublin—the principal port for communication with the rest of the empire—as the *Irish* centre of the United Kingdoms, and which will, in the course of a few years, be no more than three or four hours distance from Athlone—