

now, and they will find—for self-interest governs all these things, whatever the pride of nations may dictate—it will not divert the course of trade from its easiest channels, and when you have diverted the course of trade through our republic, all that Europe uses of the spices, teas, and silks of the East will come through this channel, here by you, the people of Chicago. [Applause.] I tell you, sir, and I say to this company, you have a right to be proud of what you have done, for you are revolutionizing the commerce of the world. I do not know that any man can now form a judgment of the exceeding importance of this great work; but I am glad, sir, that it has fallen to my lot to support it before the nation, to give my voice and influence in its behalf. [Applause.] I am glad, sir, that it stands recorded there that, through good report and through evil report, I stood by this as I stand by all those great thoroughfares that connect the interests of this great republic with one another. The gentleman alluded to that great international work, the water communication between here and the East, almost as important as the other, and worthy the enterprising people of Chicago to bring before the public, and I trust they will have the intelligence and the power to impress its importance on the whole people of the United States, so that that work shall go hand in hand with the other, and finally be accomplished. [Applause.] Therefore, again I say to you that the importance of this location transcends probably what most men think of it. If you are not to be the first city of this continent, you will never have but two rivals—San Francisco, on the Pacific, may contend the palm of greatness with you, and New York has got to run fast to get out of your way. [Laughter and applause.] You may deem that an extravagant expression, but recollect that New York city had to struggle for one hundred and fifty years before she had the population and wealth that you have to-day. Look at her history, and then at all this you have made up since I visited this, then barren spot, thirty-two years ago, and certainly neither your intelligence nor your enterprise are slow to perceive the great advan-