

the cry of the savage or the wolf, or the impetuous rush of herds of buffaloes, and he will have some conception of what is now meant by the March of Empire.

We have traced the line of this great continental thoroughfare from the Missouri to the shores of the Pacific,—or, to use the grand language of the Bible, which, in this connection, has a distinctness and significance which are absolutely startling—“*from the river to the ends of the earth.*” We have reached that ocean on the one shore of which the most ancient of earth’s populations are found, while the most recent are found on the other,—that point on the earth’s surface where days end and new days begin. We have seen its effects as far as it has gone; and, from the strong attractions of the remainder of the way, we may confidently expect that its progress entirely across the continent will be followed by similar results—that a strong tide of population will instantly follow it, carrying with it all the forces and blessings of a high civilization.

But its effects will not be confined to Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and California. A new and better life will flow through this channel into Mexico; and, without violence to either the persons or the institutions of that distracted country, it will be subdued, and added, if not politically, at least socially and commercially, to our own empire. Nothing can prevent it; for the Northern States of that country, especially Chihuahua and Sonora, with their rich pastures, their fertile valleys, and their numerous mines of the precious metals, lie near to the line, and will be connected by branches wherever they can be made available. A branch road will probably reach Guaymas before the main line can possibly be carried to San Francisco. This will give us the first and nearest Pacific port. But of this I have already spoken.

My desire, however, in this closing letter, is rather to speak of this road as a channel of Christian civilization than as an avenue of commerce. The course of this civilization, ever since the veil of the Jewish temple was rent in twain, and Jew and Gentile mingled together under one common banner in the service of one Lord and Master, has been WESTWARD. It is westward still, and westward, like the sun in his course, it is destined to continue, until it shall have completed the circuit of the globe. When contemplated from this point of view, the enterprise of which we speak assumes an importance and grandeur beyond what the mind is able fully to grasp. The thought that we are opening a channel through which new light, new life, a better civilization, and the Gospel of Peace, shall flow to hundreds of millions of human beings, ought to inspire every heart and nerve every arm in aid of the great work.