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GREATER AMERICA

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BY

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WITH MAPS



HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK AND LONDON

1904

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Государственный
Библиотека
Союз
И. В. Сталина

К 33537-60

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Published April, 1904.

PREFACE

IN calling this book *Greater America*, the author is aware that he challenges comparison with a far more important, studied, and weighty work. No other title, however, conveys so successfully the main idea of this book.

It is not only the territorial magnitude of Greater America, her innumerable problems of race and policy, and her resources, wealth, and progressive theories which are the motive of this book—it is rather Greater America as a world-power, the American peoples, and the American ideal in the cosmogony of the world.

An attempt is here made—it is believed for the first time — to present American evolution as a whole, to treat her history from the stand-point of its wide national significance, to show to what point she has progressed, to indicate what her future may be. To do this in one comparatively short volume involved an amount of compression and elision which must, perforce, lead to a certain abruptness; it was impossible, in many cases, to do more than indicate a line of thought or suggest a train of ideas.

What does Greater America mean?

P R E F A C E

If we could answer that question succinctly, if we could estimate the direction in which this huge dynamic force will be exercised, we should be able to take a long look into the future. But America — so it seems to the author — is at a critical period in her history. Very much depends on the spirit infused into her national life, both at home and abroad, during the next few years.

As these lines are written comes the news of the final burst of the war cloud in the Pacific, and although long expected, we are not yet able to estimate what it may mean to the rest of the world. Nearly twenty years ago the writer of these lines predicted the shifting of the centre of gravity* of world affairs from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.¹ Ten years later he embodied the same idea in a book which urged the cutting of an isthmian canal under American auspices.² Finally, in his last book, published two years ago, he was able from personal knowledge to describe the principal features in that change which already had come over the Pacific.³

The three great factors in the transformation of the Pacific are the advance, overland and over-sea, of the two great expansive powers, Russia and America, and the regeneration of Japan. We see the embroilment of two of these in a struggle

¹ R. U. S. Institution, 1885.

² *The Key of the Pacific*, 1895.

³ *The Mastery of the Pacific*, 1902.