

would furnish the country with coal for a thousand years ; so that a million of years will not exhaust our supply. What an incalculable increase of the use of steam, and a consequent increase of population and general prosperity, does such a treasure of fuel open before this country ! If our numbers should become only as many to the square mile as in Great Britain, or 223, there is room enough this side of the Rocky Mountains for 500,000,000 ; and including the western slope of those mountains, for 700,000,000 ; equal almost to the present population of the globe. And yet all that has been thus far seen in this country, and all that is in prospect, is only an accidental, or incidental, event in his theology who admits no special providence in nature. We are not of that number, for we not only believe that God, through vast cycles of duration, directed and controlled the agencies of nature, so as to bury in the bosom of this continent the means of future civilization and prosperity, but that a strong obligation hence results for every one living here to throw all his energies into the work of making this land a glory and a blessing to the nations.

Let us go once more on the wings of imagination back to that remote period of our world's history, when most of its present continents were beneath the ocean. As we hover over the waters, we see them agitated by internal forces, and now and then smoke and ashes, and it may be flames, issue from their surface. Submarine volcanoes are pouring forth their contents ; and could we look beneath the troubled waves we should probably see beds of various kinds thrown out by the volcano, spreading themselves along the bottom. Among these beds we should probably see gypsum and common salt. But what has this to do with special providence ? Let the ages roll on and we shall see. By and by that ocean's bed is slowly lifted above the waves. Those waves, during its