

convictions of their ancestors who, in a previous century, had struggled for religious and political freedom at a time when France was under an absolute despotism, and which culminated in the civil war and the Commonwealth under Cromwell, and the subsequent Revolution of 1688, with the establishment of a new dynasty on the throne, had never been lost or seriously dissipated, especially among the agricultural and industrial classes, whether of England or her great colonies in America. It is true that the parties of the early part of the eighteenth century exhibited every shade of political corruption; but the idea of the liberty of the subject and of the constitutional limitations of the crown, growing out of the Witanagemot of the old Saxons was never lost, while the growth of colonies and of sea-going commerce kept alive a spirit of enterprise and independence of thought, which received added strength from the marvellous industrial progress of the latter half of the eighteenth century, due to the mechanical inventions which gave England that financial prominence that has marked her course through the nineteenth century. The French intellectualism of the Renaissance found a congenial soil for its growth among the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers and Virginian descendants of those emigrants, who for two centuries had breathed the free air of a new world, while the outcome of the War of Independence gave to a decadent Toryism in England its *coup-de-grace*.

Such were the influences which enabled the younger Pitt, at twenty-five years of age, Premier of England, surrounded by men of unusually intellectual strength, to carry England safely through the trying years of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, while the world was taught very many lessons of what a people once in thralldom may become and do when, imbued by the broad truths of the "Contrat Social" and the "Rights of Man," they strike for individual and national freedom. England had, with the growth of the colonies and the founding of the new empire in India, been developing her commerce during the reign of the first Georges; but this progress became rapidly accelerated from 1750 onward, owing to several remarkable mechanical inventions in manufacturing machinery. Of these the inventions for the manufacture of cotton goods were the greatest in their immediate results. The stories have often been told of how Hargreaves invented the spinning-jenny, and how Arkwright increased many times over, by the use of rollers, the amount of yarn made; and of how Cartwright made the power loom and cylinder presses for printing cotton goods, have all been told again and again, while the improvements of Watt, once a Scotch watch-maker, in the steam engine, making it almost the very machine we see to-day, enabled Arkwright to run his machines by steam, and engineer Rennie set the wheels of the great flour mills of London revolving by the same agency. If to these we add the improvements made