

of a great nation, occupying a territory, from its vastness of extent, and diversity of climate, dependent entirely on moral causes for the union of its inhabitants—and the effect of mingling in a single commonwealth a variety of European races, each receiving continual accessions of fresh nationality from an unprecedented tide of emigration. Up to this moment, a measure of success far greater than the most sanguine could have anticipated, has attended both of these novel phases in the great cycle of human destiny. A liberty, more nearly approaching to entire non-restraint than any of which history affords an example, has been found compatible with the highest security for person and property, and even with a tolerable permanence of national policy, both domestic and foreign. And, strange to say, from the heterogeneous elements so hurriedly thrown into contact, and still in a state of imperfect fusion, a national character is rapidly forming, possessed, it is probable, of stronger elements of greatness than could be found in the constitution of any other people, ancient or modern. A universal mental activity—an inventive genius, bolder, acuter, and more original than has ever before been developed—a spirit of enterprise characterized by almost feverish eagerness and industry—yet, so far, remarkably free from the imputation of aggression—such are some of the prominent traits of a people, as yet in comparative political infancy, and whose ultimate position and history present, both to calculation and imagination, outlines vaster and bolder than any which the experience of the past world can supply.