

censure, which would be unjust, and undistinguishing panegyric, which would be injudicious, it is fair to observe at the outset upon the questioning habits of the western world, that as curiosity is one of the elements of our mental constitution, and a great instrument of acquiring knowledge, if Americans possess more of this spirit than ourselves, which the very objection seems to imply, it does but afford an evidence of their intellectual vigour, and may suggest the caution that we do not allow ourselves to be beguiled by self-confidence and sluggishness into the loss of the race and rivalry of knowledge. But if the reproach be intended solely to represent their sensitiveness with regard to the conclusions to which their friends from the "Fatherland" may come respecting themselves or their institutions, then it may be viewed as, at least, complimentary. It presupposes, that our judgment is thought to be of some importance; and that as an older and more advanced country, we are competent to form some estimate of their intellectual and moral condition. Why should we seem to spurn as a meanness, or condemn as a folly, even an excessive eagerness to obtain the approving smile of Britain upon their efforts, which a generous rivalry will not withhold, and which will promote a friendship between us that must be reciprocally beneficial? United by a common origin, a common language, a common Christianity, we are capable, if ready to act in fraternal combination, of impressing a character upon the future destinies of the world.

In some points of view, indeed, the question pro-