

lines, and factories; the ocean traversed in all its wide expanse by steam; the vast deserts of Central Asia, Africa, and Australia crossed; the heavens mapped out; the icy solitudes of the Poles explored; the Alps are being tunneled, the Rocky Mountains surmounted by railways, and the Isthmus of Suez threaded by a ship canal; the secrets of nature are being revealed—in chemistry, optics, astronomy, electricity and biology. And all these wondrous triumphs are for the many; not, as formerly, for the few. A cheap press brings the thoughts of the highest and greatest within the reach of the humblest. In this progress the Anglo-Saxon race stands foremost. Its language is spoken by about 70 millions of people, and confessedly contains the greatest treasures of ancient or modern literature. It forms the most powerful monarchy and the greatest republic of modern history. And no better commendation can be given of the British constitution than that the new States which arise—Belgium, the kingdom of Italy, and the North German Confederation—make it their model. War might change this prosperity, but war is becoming so destructive that nations stand aghast at entering on it. And even if it come,—

“Nought can make us rue,
If England to herself do rest but true.”

K. John, Act V., S. 7.