

to magnify the spots on the republican stars, and conceal the lustre, energy, and happiness which they diffuse through their rapidly extended sphere. The rudeness which travellers are sometimes said to experience in the States may well be pardoned by an Englishman. It is the very fault which foreigners allege against us, and it is not in either case so much intentional rudeness, as the excess of a noble independence. It is not the malicious kick of a vicious animal, but the bounds and curvettings of a fiery courser, proud of his strength, spirit, and speed; and though his movements may not be so easy and gentle as those of the pacing nag, or ambling pony, yet to the goal of victory, or against the thunders of battle, he triumphantly bears his rider to honour and glory. No man who has any love for truth, any regard for unconquerable freedom, any admiration of a bold or daring spirit, or any pleasure in the improvement and happiness of his species,—can behold the prosperous commerce, the flourishing villages, towns, and cities, the agriculture and manufactures, the churches, schools, printing presses, and libraries, the roads and canals that spread like enchantment where all was lately a trackless forest, while the people's mighty energy bears them upward and onward to yet nobler achievements, and to a station of yet higher mental and moral grandeur: no man who has a just esteem for his rational, free, and immortal nature, can behold these things without exulting in such trophies of American enterprise, liberty, science, and art. He will rejoice to see that the acorn which was prematurely wrenched from its parent stem has taken such deep and powerful root, has risen and spread abroad its verdant canopy far and wide, and boldly emulates the princely majesty of its parent oak. The royal eagle, instead of being pinioned to the nest for ever, escapes to illustrious freedom, grasps the lightnings of Jupiter, soars to the zenith, drinking celestial fire, and proudly flies through the starry expanse, exulting in the light and magnificence of heaven.

But it must not be supposed that all which is excellent in the States is to be placed to American credit. Statements have been made which seemed to suppose that the rank which the United States have so quickly gained among the nations was solely owing to themselves, as if their skill in commerce and naval tactics, their intelligence and enterprise, their courage and perseverance, and all that consti-

tutes their prosperity, were equally new with their name and independence as a nation.—Whether designedly or not, these statements proceed on the supposition that when the Americans achieved their independence, they were in a condition but little superior to the Indian tribes, and had gained their present standing by their own unaided efforts; whereas they had then existed long as a part of the British Empire, had enjoyed all the privileges of Britons, and entered the field on the high vantage ground of England's thousand years experience in government, art, and science.—Their case resembled that of a young merchant who enters on the well-filled warehouses, established credit, extensive connexions, and flourishing commerce of an old and well-governed mercantile firm. Their independence is from themselves, but their freedom is from England. "The political education of the people was complete when they landed on the Atlantic strand." The *spirit* of their political institutions was derived from their English ancestry, and they have merely changed the *form* of its manifestation. In all other things they have been enriched by England's knowledge and wealth, which they have had the skill and spirit to apply in a thousand different ways to their rapid advancement in all that constitutes national prosperity. Of these advantages they have so largely availed themselves, that if England with all her talent, riches, and glory were swept from the earth, or sunk in the abysses of her subject deep, enough remains in America to shed immortal honour on the country that gave birth to the citizens, the language, the freedom, and the institutions of the United States. Countries connected by a thousand exalted associations and familiar ties should preserve uninterrupted harmony. Any contest between them is as if two suns should forsake their spheres, rush to the fierce conflicts of battle, and involve two systems of worlds in darkness and ruin.

An idea, however, has got abroad, which if it were not first started by the Americans themselves, has at all events been encouraged by many among them, that we are on the eve of a rupture with the United States. We cannot agree with this notion, because there has been nothing new to warrant it, and the former differences are not of such a nature as to require an appeal to that destructive arbitrator, war. But as the old adage says: "In time of