

The French have much more of the Teutonic blood than the Spaniards, but at the time of settling America, they had strayed far from the spirit of their Teutonic forefathers. They put up a stout fight for the possession of our country, but we shall see them fail before the English, who were best fitted to build up a great nation in America.

The Dutch Prefer English Liberty. - The Dutch at New Amsterdam became dissatisfied with the liberties allowed them. They saw the people of New England enjoying great freedom and shaping their own affairs; and when the opportunity came, the Dutch were glad to become an English colony, and New Amsterdam was renamed New York.

The Coming of the English. - The English were late in getting a foothold upon our shores. The French had seized upon the St. Lawrence, the Great Lake region, and the vast Mississippi valley. The Spanish were intrenched in Florida. Thus the English were confined to the narrow Atlantic coast plains. The English knew best how to plant colonies, so it was not long before their settlements were scattered along the coast from Maine to Florida. It was fortunate that they were hemmed in as they were, for they settled more thickly and became strong and self-reliant. They were not drawn away from tilling the soil by trailing through the forests for furs, as did the French, nor by searching for gold, like the Spanish. In order to clear the forests and raise crops, the English drove away the Indians. They brought with them their wives and families, for they meant to build permanent homes here. They brought also their ideas of freedom, of having a voice in their own affairs, and of choosing their own religion. Thus the English were laying a good foundation for a free, happy, and prosperous colonial empire. America was