

by principles quite as terrene, as those that are given forth by poor Richard. Observers tell us however that this spirit is on the increase, that it is superseding most other feelings, that all classes are infected by it, and that men are not ashamed to parade it. They tell us too that Franklin is the principal cause. It is certain that other conditions being attended to, we cannot be too frugal or industrious or practical. The book of life bids us be wise as serpents. If then, I carry economy, prudence, and attention to business, to the highest point, and perform all this with a view to the glory of God, I do well. But if I practise these qualities, with an eye to an earthly result, because I desire ease, wealth, power, I form for myself an ignoble nature.

Franklin taught the line of action, but he dissevered it from the heavenly principle, and thus while Minerva presides over the olive, and Vulcan over the forge, and Saturn over husbandry this shrewd earthly man may be looked upon as the patron saint of those tendencies, whence come wooden nutmegs and maple hams. At this epoch of the revolution, when the smallness of the population and the other circumstances of the country are considered, there were certainly a great many vigorous characters.

Years ago when we read the life and correspondence of Sir John Sinclair of Edinburgh, we met some letters of Jefferson and Madison, if we mistake not, written in reply to queries addressed to them, by the learned and laborious Scotch compiler. Although letters of Pitt and other eminent British statesmen occur in the above work, there are none of them that took such hold upon the mind, as those of the American politicians. We considered at the time that there was a weight about them, that augured well for the country that was subjected to such influence. If *science* in America began with Franklin, *literature* may be counted to have commenced with Washington Irving. He the first writer of that country that we can think of, who pressed himself upon the notice of Europe. Few men have been more indebted to manner. Considering how little substance there is in his representations, he has enjoyed a great renown. His pictures are copies after the style of Addison, Goldsmith, and MacKenzie. His first, and perhaps his most original work, is a caricature of so broad a kind as to endure but one perusal. The siege of Granada proves his inability to weave a plot, or project personages on the canvas. It is an eloquent descant upon the occasion and the period, in which the writer shews that he is master of a flowing style, and proves also that he wants that invention that would make incidents round which his song might revolve. The life of Columbus struck us when it first came out, as little more than the old facts moralised. It did not appear to us, in spite of the preamble which preceded it, to add any very noticeable events to those that were known before. Elegance, apart from inventive genius and depth of feeling, seem to us to be the characteristics of this author.

Channing has occupied a considerable degree of attention. DeQuincy