

"At least," he added, "I trust you have seen enough to make a favourable report of us to your countrymen; and that you will do what you can to bring the two countries more together?"

My answer was in these words:—"I came away from England with that express intention, or at least, to speak correctly, with the anxious hope that I should find sufficient materials to enable me, with a safe conscience, to make an effort towards the accomplishment of that object."

"And what is the result?"

"I will not conceal from you that I have been somewhat disappointed; and my opinion now is, that while each of our governments retains its present character, any closer intimacy between us is not likely to spring up. Neither do I think, all things considered, it is what the Americans themselves ought to desire."

"Why not? You surely do both countries injustice."

"Pray do not misunderstand me, I said, "or think me unkind. My meaning is simply this. If an American traveller were to come to England—stay in it as long as I have done in America—and pay as much attention to my country as I have done to his, and after all were to declare, that upon the whole he did not think much further intimacy between the two countries was either probable or very desirable, I should be far from saying his speech was an unkind one to us, or unpatriotic to America,—still less that he did either party the slightest injustice."

"Surely it would be wanting in true philanthropy, however?" he said.

"Not a whit," I replied. "Each of our countries loves its own institutions better than those of the other. You prefer a democracy, we choose to abide by our monarchy. You love to be chopping and changing, we desire to continue in our present path. Which is the best, time will show. But however that may be, it is quite clear, that as our views and wishes are so diametrically opposed, not merely in name but in substance, and in all that we respectively consider valuable in life, any closer contact could not possibly tend to advance the objects of either. We, for our part, have no mind to change to your system; and you, in like manner, I presume, have no wish to come round again to that of England. Let us therefore, in God's name, long preserve our present friendly and useful relations, leaving it to time and the course of events to regulate the terms of our future intimacy."

"I fear," said my excellent friend, "we are doomed, in

An
eve
see
for
wit
grie
I ha
pere
hope
ly a
life.
So