

ing flood of wealth over the hitherto poor and unambitious fields of old Spain. An almost immediate change was visible in that kingdom. Her youth poured forth to reap an easy fortune in the El Dorado of the west. A new impulse was given to her commerce; and of necessity her hitherto paltry marine was increased to an amazing but indispensable extent, to meet the exigencies of her new position. Throughout the whole Eastern Hemisphere a change was being wrought in the monetary system of every nation. Money fell rapidly in intrinsic value. The quantity of specie thus required for the negotiation of commerce was rapidly quadrupled by the influx of the produce of Potosi and Mexico. Every article of traffic altered in price; and from the President of the Bank of Amsterdam, to the sable-hunter of the Siberian forests, every one became aware that the genius and valour of Spain had opened the flood-gates of a wealth equally incalculable and inexhaustible. The immediate advantages to Spain were beyond the most sanguine expectations. From being a country of but little consideration in the scale of nations, she rapidly assumed a position at the head of all the European States. From a shattered and divided Kingdom, actually struggling on her own territory with the gallant though decaying spirit of the Moorish chivalry, she as it were awoke, and found herself famous. Her commercial and warlike marine assumed an extent and importance suitable to the transport and protection of the vast trading interests for which it was required. Her nobles became Princes in wealth and possessions.—Great commercial cities sprang into life along her Atlantic and Mediterranean sea-board.—The treasures of Indian mines equipped and maintained the gallant armies that triumphed at Pavia and St. Quentin, and sent forth at a later period the Armada, that most gigantic naval force of modern warfare, to threaten the very existence of England, and immortalize with a renown equal to that of Pizarro or Hernando Cortez, the dearer and purer names of Drake, Eslington, and Hawkins. The war-cry of a Spanish champion had never echoed near the walls of Rome, the marshes of Flanders, or the forests of Germany, had not his country's enterprize torn the jewelled crown from the head of Montezuma, or laid bare to the grasp of a rude soldiery the sparkling treasury of the slaughtered Incas. Even when

in the course of years the internal strength of the Spanish monarchy was rotting at her heart's core, when her Colonies were wavering in their allegiance, and champing the rein that linked them with the Parent Country, she lived on for ages, upheld as much as by the efforts of her fleets and armies, by the bright halo of Colonial glory and distant territorial splendour with which her early triumphs had invested her, and which in her later and weaker years encircled her as with a rampart, and dazzled the eyes of mankind from a contemplation of her actual weakness. Spain has fallen: her trans-Atlantic dominion has melted like a frost-wreath from her brow; her arch of conquest that had for so many ages spanned the western world from the southernmost peak of the Cordilleras to the mountains of the Rio Norte, passed like an exhalation, and she herself lies bleeding at every pore, the alternate prey of the banditti and the military blood-hound, more helplessly, hopelessly wretched, than when prostrate at the feet of the Moorish victor.

We now advert to France,—with her and her Colonies we are in more immediate connection. We stand on the ground once owned by her, and the ancestors of our present fellow-subjects first trod American ground under the lilies of the Bourbons. France, as a colonizing power, occupied a different position to that of Spain. Behind the latter in priority of enterprise, and less fortunate than she was in the acquisition of territory teeming with wealth, France possessed some advantages unknown to the other. The French character from its easy adaptation to circumstances, and chameleon-like power of assuming the hues of neighbouring objects, was infinitely more successful among the inhabitants of a new country than the Spanish. Where the Gaul conciliated, the Spaniard exterminated. The aborigines of a Colony became extinct beneath Spanish oppression—they were generally the friends and allies of their French invaders. "When the Frenchmen," says an old Chippewa Chief, "first came to these Falls, they kissed us.—They called us children, and we found them fathers. We lived like brethren in the same lodge, and we had always wherewithal to clothe us. They never mocked at our ceremonies, and they never molested the places of our dead. Seven generations of men have passed away, but we have not forgotten it. Just,