

longer to submit to the arbitrary exactions and oppressions of another power, whose only object appeared to the colonists to be the advancement of its own commercial interests.

The late war with France had filled the provinces with skilful officers and good soldiers, who, if not equal to the British in discipline, still could recall many instances in which they had rescued them from defeat, or extricated them from ambush. They also possessed the advantage of being able to bring their whole force into the field, while England could put but a particle of her population in motion. They were to fight upon their native soil, in defence of their rights and their liberties.

On the 19th April 1775, was fought the battle of Lexington, which was the signal for war; and on the 30th November 1783, a treaty of peace was entered into between England and America, by which the independence of the United States was fully acknowledged.

Though victory attended not the arms of England in this great struggle, the mortification of defeat is more than counterbalanced by the consolation, that, from her soil has sprung the greatest nation on the western continent; a nation gifted with her enterprise and her courage, professing the same religion, speaking the same tongue. For although the English language in America has undergone some slight modifications by the invention of new words, or the application of new meanings to old ones, still it is the supreme language of the country. The Swedish and the Dutch have almost entirely disappeared, and the French is spoken in New Orleans alone; and notwithstanding the continual emigration of foreigners to the United States, it still is and seems likely to continue to be the common language; since the adoption of the general speech of the country is the first and necessary act of those who desire to take that part in public affairs, to which their numbers, their abilities, and their education entitle them.

Among the many glories that England has to boast of, it is not, and will not be one of the least, that she, more successful in this respect than the other nations of Europe, has trans-