

have a thousand other reciprocal ties ; and they live at a time when the tendency to equality is general amongst mankind. The Middle Ages were a period when everything was broken up, — when each people, each province, each city, and each family tended strongly to maintain its distinct individuality. At the present time, an opposite tendency seems to prevail, and the nations seem to be advancing to unity. Our means of intellectual intercourse unite the remotest parts of the earth ; and men cannot remain strangers to each other, or be ignorant of what is taking place in any corner of the globe. The consequence is, that there is less difference at the present day between the Europeans and their descendants in the New World, in spite of the ocean which divides them, than there was between certain towns in the thirteenth century, which were separated only by a river. If this tendency to assimilation brings foreign nations closer to each other, it must *a fortiori* prevent the descendants of the same people from becoming aliens to each other.

The time will therefore come, when one hundred and fifty millions of men will be living in North America,\* equal in condition, all belonging to one family, owing their origin to the same cause, and preserving the same civilization, the same language, the same religion, the same habits, the same manners, and imbued with the same opinions, propagated under the same forms. The rest is uncertain, but this is certain ; and it is a fact new to the world, — a fact which the imagination strives in vain to grasp.

There are at the present time two great nations in the world, which started from different points, but seem to tend towards the same end. I allude to the Russians and the Americans. Both of them have grown up unnoticed ;

\* This would be a population proportionate to that of Europe, taken at a mean rate of 410 inhabitants to the square league.