

assumed a more truly noble bearing ; for vice and debauchery, such as disgraced the times so recently even as the fourth George, dare not now show their visages in the Court of St. James's. And slander, that loves an exalted mark to dart its venom at, has not been able through Victoria's rule of more than a quarter of a century, to find the first flaw of conduct at which it could direct an arrow.

Let Britons boast of their country, they have good reason to be proud, their national songs find an echo in every heart. "The flag that braved a thousand years, the battle and the breeze," still waves its folds, an emblem of protection to all her subjects throughout the globe, the banner alike of victory, of peace and liberty ! The domestic hearths of her rustic cottages echo the words of her rural poet :—

"England, with all thy faults, I love thee still,  
My country ! And while yet a nook is left  
Where English minds and manners may be found,  
Shall be constrained to love thee."

The martial camp, the ocean defences, reverbrate in their hearts the words of Shakespeare :—

"This England never did and never shall  
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror.  
Come the four quarters of the world in arms  
And we can shock them. Nought can make us rue,  
While England to herself remains but true."

The halls of legislation, the courts of justice and the marts of commerce resound the strain—

"Britain ! the glorious subject fires my breast  
And my soul's darling passion stands confessed,  
Beyond, or love or friendship's sacred band ;  
Beyond myself I prize my native land ;  
On this foundation would I build my fame,  
And emulate the Greek and Roman name ;  
Think England's peace bought cheaply with my blood  
And die with pleasure for my country's good."

While such love of country is beyond dispute the great characteristic of England, Ireland and Scotland, and which patriotic spirit has been the guiding star that has led the United Kingdom