

“ Revolution—which is unchecked evolution—is barren.

“ Evolution—which is normal revolution—is fruitful.

“ Evolution rules itself. Revolution calls for a dictator.

“ Revolutions raise too much dust, which blinds souls and extinguishes minds.

“ Since contrary laws counterbalance each other, free evolutions are necessary. Favour them.

“ Violent revolutions destroy the laws which they ought to affirm by giving them weight.

“ In France revolutions are purely theoretical.

“ In England, social evolutions are practical.

“ The passions and strong likings of our race rarely allow of its enjoying virile, powerful, and healthy evolution.

“ Woe to whoever rushes into theoretical, feminine, feverish revolutions, for they destroy.

“ We always lose by our revolutions, while England gains by hers.

“ During the last hundred years, she has emancipated the Catholics, freed commerce, extended franchise, broken a thousand bonds; and lived in a continuous and unperceived state of revolution.”

In the chapter immediately following this, Chasles displays several times his peculiar talent for characterizing a man or defending a thing in one short sentence. Speaking of the famous Machiavel, whom he by no means admires, he says “Machiavel is a moralist who has been undeceived and who repents and avenges himself.” Machiavel is taken as a model, and admired only in times when craft reigns supreme; of his school are those statesmen who “concern themselves not about the morality of things. They knead up facts and handle the dirty clay of human affairs, caring little whether they soil their fingers or stain their workshop with blood.” Do not the names of certain potentates and ministers rise to one’s lips on reading these words?

He is not like almost all Frenchmen, so dazzled by “*toutes les gloires*,” as to lose his clear-sightedness in matters affecting his country and its great men. This is abundantly proved in his book, notably in his reflections on “War,” on “Bonaparte” and on “France.” His division into two classes of the Wars of the great Napoleon, must strike every one, not blinded by party prejudice,