

Bancroft's temperament, and of which he has largely availed himself.

In the preface to this volume, Mr. Bancroft announces himself "as alone responsible for what he has written." Whatever significance may, at one time, have attached itself to this expression, I consider it as meaning, in his case, that his character as a gentleman, and his general standing with the community, challenge any question as to the purity of his motives.

Of Mr. Bancroft's own estimate of himself in these respects we have some evidence in the poetical effusion which closes his letter in reply to Greene, published in the last number of the *North American Review* :

"Thou, notwithstanding, all deceit removed,
See the whole vision he made manifest;
And let them wince who have their withers wrung.
What, though, when tasted first, thy voice shall prove
Unwelcome; on digestion, it will turn
To vital nourishment."

I do not find, however, so much lofty disinterestedness as these lines would imply, is conceded to him by others.

In his political career, his course has not been very generally considered the result of pure conviction through principle, nor is the estimate placed upon him by those who have known him the longest and most