

result very widely. But language at all like the following, coming from such men as Dr. Leonard Bacon, of New Haven, and Dr. Thompson, of New York, is not encouraging:—

“As Dr. Bacon said in the Boston Council (says Dr. Thompson) our political independence of the British government was achieved nearly a century ago, but our moral independence of the English people has only been achieved during the past four years. But that emancipation is now as complete as the first. Henceforth America will look no more to England for precedent, for sympathy, for counsel, or for aid. You left us to tread the wine-press alone, and we have learned to do without even your moral support. I write this in candour, not in reproach.”—(*Patriot*, Aug. 3.)

“With submission, I must say, this dream of independence is not a wise dream, whether taken up by individuals or nations. To say nature abhors a vacuum, is to say that nature abhors isolation—independence. The United States will not be independent of English opinion or of English feeling. Nations so placed as to come into diplomatic relations, must be more or less mutually dependent; and America will have no relation involving so much of this element as will be found in her connexion with Great Britain. But our friends speak of *moral* relations. Well, opinion and feeling are moral elements, but on these, as all the world knows, hang the mightiest interests—even the interests of peace and war. A nation which should boast of its indifference to these moral influences, as pertaining to other nations, would proclaim itself a nation in its infancy, having the first elements of political science to learn. This is far from being the condition of the United States, and very far from being the condition of our friends Dr. Bacon and Dr. Thompson. But were I to take the above language from them literally, my conclusion from it would be such as I should be loth to accept. We none of us know what sympathy we may need, and shall be wise in husbanding it where we can. If the language of our American brethren towards us in future is to be, We don’t want your sympathy—the simple result will be that they will have it. Should they choose to demean themselves towards us so as to make it natural that coldness, or something worse, should follow, then there will be coldness, or something worse. There are unalterable laws which make this relation of cause and effect inevitable. To have friends we must show ourselves friendly. We reap as we sow. Faults, no doubt, we have had; but, I repeat, there are faults on the other side, which, if duly considered, would not be found less weighty. We have no doubt erred in some things, but to a large extent it is America herself that has caused us to err.”

And once more, concerning the feeling in England of which Americans complain :

“Bear with me, my good friends in America, in saying, once more—it is the weakness confessed at Boston, that has been especially potent in producing this feeling. The man who will be always jeering at you, and menacing you, however idle his boasting, becomes an offence to you. And this is the sort of attitude that has been assumed towards England by much that has reached us from America. Nor has this been confined to the more exceptionable portions of the press. Portions of American society from whom better things might have been expected have sinned against us very egregiously in this way. And as to the exceptional newspapers, it is admitted that the editor of the *New York Herald* is a man who writes what he knows will sell, and this ceaseless abuse and menace of England is the commodity he supplies, and the sale of his paper, he affirms, is greater than that of all the other New York papers taken together. Nor is this handiwork left to the editor of the *Herald*. I have seen religious papers—so called—and papers having a nearer relation to American Congregationalism than they should be allowed to have, in which this feeling towards England sometimes takes strange forms. Let it be remembered again, that I am not attempting to show that we Englishmen have been without fault; I am simply showing that if we have sometimes used sharp words, it has not been without