

have really a heart or any sense of patriotism that I should have witnessed such degradation and still care to live! France was different. There, too, they had to eat the bread of tribulation under the yoke of the conqueror: their fall was hardly more sudden or violent than ours; but war could not take away their rich soil; they had no colonies to lose; their broad lands, which made their wealth, remained to them; and they rose again from the blow. But our people could not be got to see how artificial our prosperity was—that it all rested on foreign trade and financial credit: that the course of trade once turned away from us, even for a time, it might never return; and that our credit, once shaken, might never be restored. To hear men talk in those days you would have thought that Providence had ordained that our government should always borrow at three per cent., and that trade came to us because we lived in a foggy little island set in a boisterous sea. They could not be got to see that the wealth heaped up on every side was not created in the country, but in India and China, and other parts of the world; and that it would be quite possible for the people, who made money by buying and selling the natural treasures of the earth, to go and live in other places, and take their profits with them. Nor could men believe that there could ever be an end to our coal and iron, or that they would get to be so much dearer than the coal and iron of America, that it would no longer be worth while to work them, and that therefore we ought to insure against the loss of our artificial position, as the great centre of trade, by making ourselves secure, and strong and respected. We thought