

What a source of national thrift may be anticipated by the enlightened, contemplative patriot, from a country so extensive, still fresh, as it were, from the hand of nature, abounding in means not only to support a dense population at home, but also to supply all the demands of foreign markets, both with provisions, and the raw materials for manufactures! What motives to stimulate to agricultural and commercial industry! What natural resources of subsisting millions of human beings! But, as it might be thought more prudent, perhaps, to shroud a little this picture of national strength and felicity, which a love of country delights to view in prospective, we waive the subject, lest we may seem romantic or visionary.

The western states are situated in that happy medium of climate, between extreme heat and cold, where a temperature of the human constitution, most favorable to health, may be preserved; and the means of sustaining life, from the cultivation of the soil, most easily obtained. It would seem that man, thus secured from the annoyance of those sensations which are produced by northern blasts, and scorching suns, possessed here the most certain means of perfecting his nature; and that the energies of his mind, when aroused to action, and directed by the most proper natural and moral influence, might attain the highest point of maturity of which his mental faculties are susceptible. In Greece and Rome, more than two thousand years ago, the vigor and ingenuity of the human intellect, from natural and moral causes, not unlike those which now operate on the American citizens of the western states, were displayed in a manner which excited the wonder and admiration of the world. The impulse which civil freedom imparted to those ancient