

ing of our Saviour ascending up to Jerusalem, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, if thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace ; but now they are hid from thine eyes."—We know that the Jews are at this time suffering the signal effects of divine displeasure in being scattered over the face of the whole earth ; but prophecy assures us, that the Gospel will have its brightest consummation in this world in the restoration of that people to their native land, when together with all the Gentile world they shall believe in that Lord, whom their fathers crucified and slew ; when to use the beautiful language of the Prophet Isaiah, (1) "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

This feeling then being natural to the mind of man, and recognized in the word of God, have we not reason, my Christian brethren, to cherish it in an especial manner towards the land of our birth ? Look around, survey all the nations on the face of the habitable globe, where shall we find one that can present so many claims to the affections of her sons as the favored Isle, from which we boast our descent ?—Passing by those advantages of climate, soil and situation, which a modern poet thus describes :—

" A fairer Isle than Britain never Sun
View'd in his wide career ; a lovely spot
For all that life can ask : salubrious, mild :
Its hills are green, its woods and prospects fair :
Its meadows fertile, and to crown the whole
In one delightful word, it is our home,
Our native Isle." (2)

Passing by, I say, these, let us consider only the moral worth of its Inhabitants, the high and pre-eminent station which from their general intelligence and wealth they hold amongst the nations of the earth, the public spirit, with which under the genuine influence of Christianity they seek by all the means in their power to improve both at home and abroad the social and political condition of their

(1) Isaiah 11, 19. (2) Cowper.