

against these buccaneers, and we do not wonder that some of our people extend their resentment to the whole of the Americans. This feeling we cannot share. We condemn the guilty, and let the innocent pass unscathed.

But besides this indignation for the border outrages, there are some among us who regarded our neighbours with aversion before those outrages occurred, and of course they now cherish the sentiment more devoutly than ever. The main-spring of their enmity is political. They detest a republic, and regard the term republican as but another name for a fool or a knave. They consider both name and substance as a nuisance which they cannot approach, and which when seen from afar shocks their moral sense, and disorders their delicate nerves. A republic is a chaos, a monster, a fiend, a usurper of other men's rights, a devourer of other men's gains, an enslaver of other men's persons, an outrage against human nature and divine right, a concentration of all bad passions for all bad purposes, a league with hell against earth and heaven, and the third stage to the burning, bottomless gulf of perdition. Such are some of the ideas that whirl through the heads of the divine-right-and-passive-obedience men when a republican comes "between the wind and their nobility," or the hateful subject intrudes on their excited imaginations. In such notions and such fears we do not participate. The particular form of government under which a people shall live is their own peculiar concern, one in which strangers have no right to interfere, and of which in fact they are often incapable of judging aright. The very form of government which suits one people admirably well may be wretchedly misapplied to another, and what is really good under certain circumstances may be as really evil under circumstances totally different. These are matters which every people must consider and determine for themselves, and he is the fool or knave who usurps their prerogative, and presumes to sit in judgment on a whole people with whom he has almost nothing in common. So long as our neighbours to the south are contented with their government we are contented too, and if we even thought it bad it is no affair of ours. The days of knight-errantry are over, though now and then some crazy loon seems emulous of Don Quixotte's glorious name, noble birth, and marial deeds. Do we dread the example of a republic, or fear

contagion from its presence? Will it taint the air with its breath, delude us by its songs, or waft on every southern breeze strange shapes and visions to attract our sight, and draw us to its embrace? Is there magic in the name, enchantment in the sound, a charm in the scene which no mortal can resist? Must we fall down and worship this golden calf, or adore this golden image which Babel's sovereign people have set up? Does the fiery furnace await us if we refuse to bow the knee, or shall we be cast into the den of lions if we kick the beast instead of doing it homage? Answer ye who are afraid of a republic as if it were the counterpart of hell. If it were Pandemonium itself we could not escape from it. There it stands, confronting us along our whole border, and exercising a considerable influence on our people and their affairs. This influence may be in the highest degree injurious, yet we cannot change our situation, nor should we shut our eyes to the peculiar influences which it brings to bear upon us. On the continent of Europe the governments are watchful of the influence which a contiguous people may exert, even though obstructed by differences of language and national character, and but little commercial intercourse. How much more then must the United States affect us, between whom there is a sameness of language and general character, an unrestrained intercourse in trade, and many mutual business connexions. The governments of Europe endeavour to shut out the light and influence of institutions more liberal than their own, but this exclusion cannot be attempted here. The only way in which we can safely correct this influence from without, is by infusing so much liberality into the administration of the government, that the people of Canada shall "see nothing to envy in the institutions of the United States," according to Lord Stanley's declaration.

It is hardly fair, however, when looking upon the United States, to fix our attention on nothing but their political institutions. If we were to admit that these are as objectionable as their opponents declare them to be, yet there is a vast amount of matters and things totally unconnected with politics, which mainly compose or form the national character, and well merit the observation of those who are by their situation exposed to its influence. We are not blind to certain alleged defects in the American character, but we are not disposed