

no Autocrat to threaten the people of the south and west with swarms of cossacks, Portugal would soon become an appanage of Spain, and Spain, in turn, would be added to the sovereignty of France, until the Gallic nation, incapable of maintaining so great a territorial dominion, would split into petty republics or oligarchies, and civilization would retrograde far more rapidly than it has advanced. On the other hand, would the despotic states of northern and eastern Europe long withstand the onward rush of a crusade for political liberty, if England were not at hand to check the misguided zeal of rash theorists for freedom. The determined enthusiasm of Germany, and the reckless courage of Poland, would afford the means for kindling the flames of foreign and civil war in Russia, Austria, and Prussia. There is no longer a Holy Alliance in existence, to band nations together in self-defence for some common purpose—the balance of power among the different sovereignties of Europe is becoming daily less and less effective for the preservation of the rights of each: and if peace is to be preserved in Europe, and that war of opinion which Canning predicted is to be avoided, it must be by England preserving her puissance, and acting as the arbitress of the destinies of mankind.

In the confederacy of nations, as well as among the constituency of a kingdom, there must be some chief acknowledged, for the better upholding of the rights and privileges of each. To which of the nations of Europe can that power be more safely entrusted than to England? She belongs to Europe, although not on its continent; she forms a part of the family compact of nations, yet has no personal interest in the connexion. Were the whole of Europe instantaneously engulfed by an earthquake, England would be no loser, territorially, *commercially*, or socially. But it is for the honour and advantage of England that Europe should be in peace—that its sovereigns and governments should, by every possible means, extend freedom, knowledge, and commerce. She has a common interest in the welfare of Europe, as it contains the most civilized portion of the human race; but she can have no views adverse to the internal prosperity of France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Russia, Prussia, &c.

England can never become a great continental power: even if it were possible, the attainment of such would be foreign to her objects and interests: her dominion is on the ocean,—with her fleets and colonies she can command and control, as she has before done, the coasts and commerce of all who proclaim themselves her enemies. But in no instance has England ever waged an offensive war in Europe; whenever she has been provoked into contests, it has either been for the maintenance of her principles, or in self-defence. France may desire to extend her boundaries to the Rhine, Spain to re-annex Portugal to the ancient thrones of Castile and Arragon:

Austria avariciously grasps Italy: Russia daily augments her territories from the dislocated provinces of Turkey, but England seeks nothing in Europe. Whatever may be the extent of her acquisitions in other parts of the globe, the white nations have assuredly no reason to fear an encroachment on their territories and rights; and by the extension of her colonies among the dark-coloured races of the tropics, she is cheapening the luxuries of life, and enabling all Europe to profit by her exertions.

Nations should be above the petty jealousies of shopkeepers in provincial towns. The merchant of an expansive and just mind, feels that it is for his interest to have rich and enterprising neighbours, whether at home or abroad. Thus also it is with kingdoms: whatever improvement England produces in the manufacture of cotton, silk, wool, &c., or in the preparation of machinery, Europe soon feels the benefit of her skill and capital, and, without the previous labour and expense, derives the full measure of advantage from her insular neighbour.

We have thus shown that there is no just ground for the hostility which the continental powers have expressed towards England; and our future pages will develop how little England has to dread from the united hostility of every nation of Europe, were it possible for them all to combine against her. Foreigners never comprehend sufficiently our social state, or internal resources. If, by any madness, England were to be plunged into war, party feelings would soon subside, and the energies of this mighty country would be put forth with tremendous effect. We should, as before, strip every hostile nation of their colonies, sweep the seas of their vessels, and blockade their coasts. Autocrats or despotic sovereigns would soon find that their domestic condition would not be favourable to the maintenance of their present power; and that which would but consolidate our internal strength, would, if necessity required it, be made an instrument for breaking their rule.

We desire not to dwell on this subject, and have not the least intention of using minatory language; on the contrary, we wish to prove that it is the interest of every nation in Europe to be at peace with England, and it is for their direct personal good that she should maintain her colonial power and oceanic supremacy; and when we come to discuss, at a future period, our political and commercial relations with our European brethren, we shall endeavour to show how little England has to fear or to care for the hostility or friendship of her continental neighbours, apart from those general considerations which we trust will ever sway a Christian kingdom.

There will arise so many occasions for an examination of each and all the points adverted to, and for a minute inquiry into the basis of our structure, as the oldest kingdom on the earth, that we pass on