

to the agitators of Boston and elsewhere who did their utmost to "push the quarrel to extremity, and to quench the hope of reconciliation," and to the contraband traders and debtors who sought, in fratricidal strife, relief from trade restrictions or from debt. "Woe to all on either side who, under the influence of passion, interest, or selfish ambition, fomented the quarrel which rent asunder the English race."

Nor can we refrain from quoting the passage in which Mr. Smith describes the position of England after the war: "England came out at last with her glory little tarnished. She had yielded, not to America, but to America, France, Spain, and Holland, combined. That tremendous coalition she had faced; the national spirit of her people, which had not been thoroughly awakened by the war against her own colonists, rising to do battle with her foreign enemies; and her flag floated in its pride once more over the waters which were the scene of Rodney's victory, and on that unconquered rock beneath which the Spaniard received his share of the profits of the league."

The passages to which we have referred show the style in which this book is written, and the spirit with which it deals with the events that it records. We have not space to follow the writer any further. We can only say that in the subsequent pages the reader will find impartial record and wise reflection expressed in language such as only Mr. Smith can use.

Notes and Selections.

LORD SELBORNE AND LORD CAIRNS.—It is quite impossible to study the life of the Earl of Selborne in any of its varied aspects without being struck by the antithesis which it presents at every turn to the life of Lord Cairns. As advocates as politicians, as judges, and as men, they were "opposites," both in the literary and in the logical sense of the term. Of course they had points in common. Both possessed an intuitive insight into legal principles, a marvellous power of grasping and expounding facts, and the patient industry without which intuitions are deceitful and gifts of exposition vain. Both were "great in counsel" (the phrase was, as everybody knows, applied by Disraeli to Cairns) and dexterous in debate. Both were men of flawless rectitude. Both were deeply smitten with the religious instinct.