

ability by land is to her. Not only are her liberty and prosperity enabled to expand and establish themselves without fear of disturbance from external forces, but they receive an impulse from the mere recognition of this fact derived from observation of the fortunes of her neighbours under the contrary condition. Her domestic politics, unlike those of the continental nations, are controlled only by domestic interest. The result is a practical and common-sense treatment of them, such as a merchant makes of his individual affairs in the seclusion of his counting-house. The *nation boutiquière* thus carries "shop" into her Parliament. Could a ditch impassable to Von Moltke be drawn around poor France from Dunkirk to Nice, and kept impregnable even for a few decades, the world would witness a notable change in the steadiness of her institutions and her industry. It is not a question purely of race, as we



HOGARTH'S TOMB.

have usually been taught to consider it. Circumstance makes race, and race cannot rise wholly above circumstances. The Jutes and Saxons in their native seats are not distinguished above the other peoples of Christendom for intelligent and effective devotion to free institutions. Many continental families are more so. The Welsh and Scots, largely sharing the Celtic blood which is alleged to enfeeble the French, are in no way inferior to their English brethren in this regard.

Peace at home tells, in three words, the main story of English freedom and might. Beranger, lifting his voice from the ruins of

the First Empire, sings—

J'ai vu la Paix descendre sur la terre,
Semant de l'or, des fleurs et des épis.
L'air était calme, et du Dieu de la Guerre
Elle étouffait les foudres assoupis.

With him it was an inspiration *for* peace. From the banks of the Thames, unsmirched of blood and smoke and blooming with everything that war can destroy, his aspiration would have been *to* peace, pervading in divinest *aura* the lovely scene.

A realization of this peculiar blessing is general among Englishmen. The tremendous lesson of the Conquest, eight hundred years old, is fresh