

he feared nothing of that blustering and swaggering spirit, and that he would never reverence him nor make sacrifices to him. Indeed we see appear at intervals men endued with a real strength of mind, who did not only trample under foot all the objects of credulity and idle superstition, but who even raised their minds to the invisible Master, the Father of the sun and of all nature. In an Icelandic chronicle, a man by the name of Giest says to his nephew, who was about to embark for the discovery of America, "I beseech and conjure Him who made the sun and the stars, to give success to thy great undertaking." But still more remarkable are the words of Harold Hairfair, the first king of all Norway in the ninth century, when Christianity had *not yet* found its way to that country, "I swear in the most sacred manner that I will never offer sacrifices to any of the gods adored by my people, but to Him only who has formed the world, and what I behold in it." To describe minutely like expressions from many wise men would only occasion tiresome repetitions, and I shall therefore, confine myself to remarking that at the end of the ninth century Christianity was introduced into the three Scandinavian kingdoms, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the vestiges of the pagan worship were destroyed, its idols overthrown, its altars demolished, and its temples closed, and Christianity has since prevailed in Scandinavia, and formed the great bond of the social happiness and the great source of the intellectual eminence which this remote quarter of the globe now so richly enjoys.

It is scarcely necessary, I think, that I should take notice, before concluding, that I here only have been delineating a nation in its infancy, and that the greatest part of the other Europeans were neither less savage nor less uncivilized during the same period; and the great prerogative of Scandinavia, and what ought to recommend its inhabitants beyond almost every people on earth, is that they afforded the great resource to the liberty of Europe. Montesquieu, the admirable author of the Spirit of Laws, calls Scandinavia the fabric of those instruments that broke the fetters manufactured in the South, and I do not hesitate to conclude by saying