

to the French people, by which England has been too much distinguished.

Ferox Britannus viribus antehac,
Gallisque semper cladibus imminens.

BUCHANAN

The Briton, formerly terrible in his strength, and always menacing calamities to France. Englishmen pretend to be proud of the horrid ravages committed in that country, by Edward the Third, by his son, and by Henry the Fifth. The justice of their claims has long been given up; and yet we are deafened about their *villies*. Englishmen prattle on French perfidy, and of sucking in, with their mother's milk, an honest hatred for that greatest of nations. In the French wars of Edward the Third, and Henry the Fifth, England was plainly the aggressor; and the country, so far from feeling pride in their victories, ought, if possible, to suppress that part of its ancient history. Philip de Comines places the affair in a proper light. He ascribes the civil wars of York and Lancaster, that succeeded the death of Henry the fifth, to the indignation of divine justice. The murder, by Richard the Third, of his two nephews, was a diminutive crime, contrasted with the atrocity of Crecy, of Azincourt, and Poitiers. Henry the Fifth was a two-fold usurper. "If he thought," says Horace Walpole, "that he had any title to the crown of England, his right to that of France, followed as a matter of course." Since his time, the kings of England have called themselves *kings of France*, just like a person advertising that his grand-father had stolen a horse.

Ireland has long presented a striking monument of the wisdom, justice, and humanity of the English nation. That devoted island was, at the end of the twelfth century, over-run by a set of banditti, under Henry the Second. This established a divine right. Sir John Davis informs us, that even in times of peace, it was adjudged no felony to kill a mere *Irishman*. This acquisition proved very troublesome to the conquerors. "The usual revenue of Ireland," says Mr. Hume, "amounted only to six thousand pounds a year. The queen, (Elizabeth,) though with much repining, commonly added twenty thousand pounds more, which she remitted from England." The supremacy was, at best, a losing bargain. In war, affairs were, of course, an hundred times worse. Sir John Sinclair says, that the rebellion of Tyrone, which lasted for eight years, cost four hundred thousand pounds *per annum*. In 1700, six hundred thousand pounds were spent in six months; and Sir Robert Cecil affirmed, that in ten years, Ireland cost England three millions, and four hundred thousand pounds sterling. This profusion of treasure was expended in supporting the political conquest of a country which did not yield a shilling of profit to England, nor pay, even in time of peace, a fourth part of the expence of its government. The consolation of inflicting the deepest and