

able to promote them, unless circumstances should prove their expediency, from motives founded upon private and public economy, in the most restricted and sordid acceptance of these terms.

Emigration and settlement, in our neighbouring country, have proceeded on a grand scale; one, of which the inhabitants of Europe, and even ourselves in Canada, have scarcely any conception. I am not now alluding to the influx of Europeans into the United States, but to the still more mighty movement of the inhabitants of the Atlantic States into the western territory. Never was a nation blessed with such means and opportunities of becoming great, at a little cost, as the American Republic. England, before the revolution had not only commenced the colonisation of North America, but she had conquered it from others. The native tribes were driven from their possessions, and reduced to a state of feebleness, and this by means not belonging to the Colonists themselves. In vain did the enterprising Frenchman explore the great lakes, and establish his trading posts and forts deep within the interior—in vain did he trace the father of rivers from his source to his outlet—in vain did the Dutchman and the Swede attempt to divide the new-formed empire; the all-grasping Englishman would endure the presence of no race but his own. And when that race became possessed of undisputed sway upon this northern continent, and when, after an unnecessary and unnatural conflict, revolution and separation ensued, the Colonists were left without an enemy, with great and fertile, though unoccupied regions, at their disposal. Without the necessity of offence or defence, the great consumers of life, wealth and energy in other nations, with institutions in their foundation British, which left absolute liberty for all good purposes to each individual; without the clashing interests arising from long-vested rights and artificial distinctions of class; without the impediment of general appropriation of territory amongst princely landlords, the Americans had no difficulty in the path of future progress. And in the States of the north, especially where negro slavery was expelled, there was amongst the people a reverence for law, and a regard for order, derived from their British ancestors; a contempt for difficulty, and a sense of self-reliance for which they are not only distinguished, but which I am ashamed to say, seems to remain with them alone—which asked no protection, sought no advice, depended upon no leadership, and acknowledged no master. With these qualifications, the people of the north seemed formed for the most glorious of all victories—for the foundation of a mighty empire, not laid upon the ashes of wasted habitations or the blood and bones of ordinary conquest, but springing into light and life, as the dark forest was to fall before the axe of the emigrant; as the waving corn-fields were to appear; and as the smoke of the domestic hearth was to arise, a grateful incense at the altar of a beneficent God.

With such a spirit, and with such a field, how could there have been a failure? Onward the emigrant settlers of America pursued the setting sun—the regions where—

“ Wild Oswego spread her swamps around,
And thundering Niagara's deafening sound,”