

served but to confirm my belief in the capacity of the people for their direct, immediate, as far as practicable, self-government ; that this opinion, which I had early imbibed among the patriots of '98, had been the faith of my youth, the creed of my manhood, and was now the consoling conviction of approaching age. Let us, I have added, take as objects of comparison, as to the workings of the two systems, first, New York, as an example of what can be effected by the people administering, themselves, their own concerns ; and next, any one of the European Governments, as a sample of an opposite system ; and then I would ask if that government, possessing boundless resources, both as regards wealth and population, has executed works of general utility, on such a scale of magnificence and grandeur, as those which New York, while democratically administered, has accomplished during the last thirty years ? The northern lakes have been brought in full communication with the waters of the Hudson—cities have sprung into existence in the very wilderness—rail roads have furrowed the land in every direction ; and while she was executing all these stupendous works, the wealth and prosperity of that republic were so far from being exhausted, that she increased her tonnage so as to surpass that of any one of the maritime nations of Europe—England excepted ! Not satisfied with this, a system of education has been adopted, the most extensive in its design, the most successful in its application, diffusing knowledge through the land with such bountiful prodigality that now, to the eternal honor of democracy ! out of every four individuals in that state, one attends the public schools, not barely to learn how to read and write, but to be taught all that can impress on a freeman the high sense of his noble origin ; on a citizen, all that can indelibly stamp on his mind, the full knowledge of his privileges and rights. Has England, blessed as she has been for ages, in the possession of free institutions, with her lofty views, her far-reaching councils, her hundred and fifty millions of human beings, obeying the mandate of her king and parliament ; has she surpassed, has she rivalled these doings of democratic New York ? Has France, under the guidance of the potent genius that wielded her resources, her science, her activity, the enterprise of her thirty-three millions of intelligent and hardy sons, has she equalled these successful efforts of a republic ? Has Russia done as much, during the same period, with her sixty millions of inhabitants, and the undefined powers of her talented princes ? This is not spoken in disparagement of those three nations—governed like them, the same remarks would equally