

sion for more than one hundred and fifty years. During nearly the half of this period, they were exhausting their blood and treasure, by acts of national hostilities by sea and land. Thus zealous were those foreign combatants in asserting rights which belonged to neither. At length the French, compelled by superior force, resigned to the English their claims to the country westward of the Mississippi. The English, until after they had acquired this territory, had confined their trade and colonization to the Atlantic provinces. Indeed, so limited was their knowledge of this country, that at the treaty of 1783, which terminated the revolutionary war, they deemed it of no considerable importance. From the earliest discovery, the possession of the country had been secured to a politic enemy, as well by forts and garrisons, which in a manner surrounded the country, as by the aptitude of French manners to gain the friendship of the natives.—Thus deprived of the means to obtain correct information, the calculating policy of the English had never truly estimated the great extent of territory—the general fertility of the soil—the extensiveness, and facility of navigating the numerous streams that intersect the country—and the charming temperature of climate;—qualities which confer so important and permanent a value on this portion of the United States.

It is worthy of remark, that the section of country west of the Alleghanies, till of late the sole residence of the untutored savage, and the haunt of wild beasts, now presents to the speculation of the political philosopher, an interesting subject for contemplation. It possesses the natural means of subsisting a more dense and numerous population, than the one half of modern Europe.—The country is spacious, extending from the Atlantic to