

the eastern, and especially of the north-eastern districts of Scotland, participated in their feeling, because the connection of the races is stamped, like the brand on Cain's brow, in lines perceptible to all, and the intimate assimilation of language makes the proof of identity distinct.

The birth of Alfred stamped a broad mark in the history of the British Empire, rather on account of his legislation than his wars. He gave consistency to the laws and power of the British Saxons, by collecting and embodying the scattered fragments of both. He ruled as king, with the assent, and after the instructions of the people, in their Parliament. His reign was, in every particular, prefigurative of the subsequent progress of the nation. He was a scholar, a warrior, a legislator, and the munificent patron of discovery and navigation—in themselves the origin and means of commerce. Alfred's reign commenced a millennium in British history, which has now closed. Hitherto we have gone forward in power, increasing in population, in influence, and wealth. Hereafter shall we retrograde into the insignificance of eastern kingdoms and empires, that seemed born only to grow and die? The answer closely concerns all our population, and should be pondered well. The withdrawal of the United States, at the close of the last century, neither, we think, increased British influence, nor improved American manners. The United States are not so free from vice as prudent parents would wish to see their children in their youth, or early manhood. They seem to be hot in dispute, prone to quarrel, and fond of casting every misunderstanding into the scale of war, opposite their swords. They have displayed towards weaker races little of that philanthropy which should be the chivalry of our time. Their position presents many palliating circumstances; but, as yet, ambition and avarice unfit the democracy of the States