

framed for a national republic. The first constitution framed for a national republic was the Instrument of Government. If the commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland were now under a Protector, a standing Council of State, and a parliament with a reasonable qualification for the franchise, instead of being governed by faction finding an ephemeral support in popular passion, lawlessness and rowdyism would not be amusing themselves at Cork or Chicago by wrecking the British Parliament, defying the national government, and trampling on the honour of the nation.

*American Statesmen*, edited by Mr. John T. Morse, jun., comes therefore in good season. It seems to us a very valuable series. It furnishes a history of American politics in the attractive and impressive form of biography. Some of the volumes, being the work of political experts, are full of experience and useful teaching. The editor has managed to form his staff so that, while there is no appearance of concerted uniformity in the treatment of the different lives, there is a general harmony; and it is the general harmony of rational appreciation, judicial criticism, and sound morality.

A marked change has been taking place in the American treatment of national history, both in point of style and in point of substance. What has been called 'the nauseous grandiloquence of the American panegyric historians' is now almost a thing of the past. If any fault is found with the style of these volumes, it will be rather on the score of austerity than of grandiloquence, and we oftener meet with dry humour in them than with florid rhetoric or gushing sentiment. But the Fourth of July fiction is also giving place to historical facts. A rational view of the schism in the Anglo-Saxon race begins to prevail. The biographer of Samuel Adams in this series admits that all was not plain and easy for George the Third and his advisers; he does justice to the royal governors Bernard and Hutchinson, the twin Guy Fawkeses of the Fourth of July; he does justice to the Tories and to the British garrison of Boston. He allows flaws to be seen in what it has been hitherto a point of faith to regard as the flawless character of the patriot. Some of his passages might have exposed him not long ago to rough treatment at the hands of a mob. Perhaps at the hands of a mob they might expose him to rough treatment even now.

Another change, and one specially agreeable to an English reader, is the greatly diminished frequency of the tributes which American writers used to feel it their patriotic duty to pay to the traditional hatred of Great Britain. Occasionally indeed the British palate is still offended in this way. It is the editor himself, we are sorry to say, who, in his *Life of John Quincy Adams*, shows the old feeling most strongly. In speaking of the impressment of British seamen, or seamen supposed to be British, when found on board American