

respect the rights, by making them dread the power, of the poor. It was a fiery gospel of liberty, equality, and fraternity sent among the nations. After the storm had swept over the continent, Europe breathed a purer air, and the present generation are better on account of the sufferings of their fathers.

In short, there is not a nation in the world that has risen to power and greatness which has not required some life and death struggle to call out its manhood and its strength; to teach it courage and self-respect; to consolidate it and give it a name and a place in the earth.—The Kingdom of Prussia was hardly known as a power until the wars of Frederick the Great. Holland, away in a corner of the continent of Europe, would never have secured recognition for the development given to its strength and its race by a long course of war. Had it remained untried, Spain might have indeed have enjoyed a degree of material prosperity—the rich burghers of Amsterdam might have prospered in their lands and lived in peace, but the nation would have remained abject as of a people of slaves. But when the united provinces joined to resist subjugation by Spain, then the sturdy Dutch stood up like men, and every onset of the invader, like a blast of the north wind beating against their rugged breasts, only evoked a stronger spirit of resistance. This struggle lasted thirty years, and still the war went on. Children who were in their cradles, nay, those who were not yet born, grew up to manhood, and took the place of those who had fallen in the ranks, and died there also. But what was the result? The land was laid desolate, cities were subjected to cruel sieges, and the population fearfully wasted by famine and slaughter, but the remnant became the fathers of a mighty race. That long struggle had left its impress, not only upon the face of the country, not only in devastated fields and burnt cities, but upon the character of the people. It made them brave, manly and self-reliant—fit to be the founders of an empire. Then Holland indeed arose, like Venice, out of the sea, and became a power among the nations. That long war is still looked upon as the grandest event in its history, and the effect of it on the national character remains to this day.