

The United States of America form a great country. Its people constitute an acknowledged and important element in the onward march and practical development of human progress. In every part of the world, on land and sea, the "Star spangled banner" is respected as the honoured symbol of liberty and enterprise. The American Republic is one of the mighty, growing and progressive English speaking nations of the earth. The astounding rapidity of its advancement—its electric-like expansion—has surprised many of the less progressive peoples of the world. Notwithstanding all this, its unexpected advent amongst the nations, distinct in its national characteristics and identity, was primarily the result of accidental and extraneous influences which have already been recorded in the history of its rise, its early struggles for independence, and its final achievement of an acknowledged national status amongst the great powers of the world. Revolt is often the outcome of human passion or unprincipled demagoguism. It is occasionally based upon principles of justice and right. It is sometimes successful. It is often a failure. The lines of Thomas Moore, the national poet of Ireland, are peculiarly appropriate in their application to the first unfurling of the Continental flag :

"Rebellion ! foul, dishonouring word,
Whose wrongful blight so oft has stained
The holiest cause that tongue or sword
Of mortal ever lost or gained !
How many a spirit born to bless,
Has sunk beneath that withering name—
Whom but a day, an hour's success,
Had wafted to eternal fame !
As exhalations, when they burst
From the warm earth—if chilled at first—
If checked in soaring from the plain—
Darken to fogs and sink again ;
But if they once triumphant spread
Their wings above the mountain's head,
Become enthroned in upper air,
And turn to sunbright glories there !"

Had it not been for the lamentable and stupid obstinacy of George III.—which unfortunately defeated the wise and statesmanlike counsel of William Pitt, Edmund Burke and Charles James Fox—the world most probably, perhaps positively, never would have witnessed a rebellion in the old British colonies—a revolt which to the people of that day came like a black dream of horror and despair. The obstinate old King, entrenched in the fortress of royal prerogative, did not see beyond the imperial exigencies of the present, and remained correspondingly inflexible. The colonists felt aggrieved by what they conceived to be illegal and unconstitutional imposts. Petition after petition proved fruitless ; remonstrance was in vain. Concessions came