

herself—all have sent out representatives as to a congress of the nations. At first this agglomeration proceeded slowly and by small detachments, but now it annually consists of whole armies of artisans and tillers of the ground, and of thousands upon thousands of families.

'All these foreigners,' says M. Marnier, 'carry out with them their particular predilections and prejudices. At first the character of the American does not charm them—they are disagreeably surprised by his habits. They resolve to keep aloof from him, to live apart with their own countrymen, to preserve upon that distant continent the manners of their native land—and in their mother tongue they energetically protest that they never will become Americans. Vain is the project! useless the protestation! The American atmosphere envelopes them, and by its constant action weakens their recollections, dissolves their prejudices, decomposes their primitive elements. Little by little, by insensible modifications, they change their views and mode of living, adopt the usages and language of the Americans, and end by being absorbed in the American nation, as are the streamlets from the valleys in the great rivers that bear them onward to the ocean. How many are the honest Germans, who, after cursing the rudeness of American manners, and bitterly regretting their good kindly Fatherland, have come at last to stick their hat, Yankee fashion, on the back of their head, to stiffen themselves, like the Yankee, in a coat buttoned up to the chin, to disclaim all the rules of European courtesy, and to use no other language but the consecrated dialect of business!'

This blending of the nations, this assimilation to one standard of so many different human tribes, bears certainly an unimpeachable testimony to the energy of the race which thus superinduces upon others its own characteristics. Brief as our limits compel us to be, we cannot quit this most remarkable phenomenon of American society without giving a few sentences of Lord Carlisle's, which contribute somewhat more to its elucidation. Amidst all their vaunted equality, he says, 'there is a more implicit deference to custom among the Americans, a more passive submission to what is assumed to be the public opinion of the day or hour, than would be paralleled in many aristocratic or even *despotic* communities.'

'This quiet acquiescence in the prevailing tone, this complete abnegation of individual sentiment, is naturally most perceptible in the domain of politics; but I thought that it also in no inconsiderable degree pervaded the social circle, biassed the decisions of the judicial bench, and even infected the solemn teachings of the pulpit. To this source may probably in some measure be traced the remarkable similarity in the manners, deportment, conversation, and tone of feeling, which has so generally struck travellers. Who that has seen can ever forget the slow and melancholy silence of the couples who walk arm-in-arm to the tables of the great hotel, or of the unsocial groups who