

engines that traverse land and sea, running to and fro upon the earth, and causing knowledge to increase. The Norman share in these triumphs is small, simply because the Normans, as the term is commonly circumscribed, are few. Their share is large as their numbers are great, if within the descriptive title are included all those to whom it really belongs; namely, the greater part of the north-eastern population, as distinguished originally from those in the centre, the western, and the southern districts of Britain. Some of Alfred's admirers regard him as the founder of a separate monarchy, who struggled long against the adverse Danish race. They have not, we think, any good reasons in historical facts, so far as they can now be gleaned out and substantiated, in considering his struggles as materially different in character from those of Robert Bruce against the English Norman Kings, except that the latter were more powerful combatants, and the persons more numerous who were involved in the issue. The difference between the English and Scotch wars, and a war between the British and the Russian people at the present age, is perceptible without much historical knowledge. The former might be more implacable than the latter, without a change of race following victory on either side. There are examples precisely illustrative, in the existing state of Europe. The Danes and Swedes have waged violent wars; and yet they occupy, not so much in territory as in race, the position of the English and the Scotch in former times towards each other. The triumph of either Danes or Swedes would not involve any radical change in Denmark or Sweden; but the conquest of either, or of both, by the Russians, would be a widely different affair. Then, in the attacks of the British fleet on Copenhagen, and in the alliances of the Danes with France against Britain, the Danes themselves found something unnatural; and the inhabitants of