

Crowned with the banners of his own loved isle,
 Burst on the wanderer's eye—their grandeur seems,
 Akin to that of his own blessed home,
 And he forgets his sorrow in his awe,
 E'en as, of old, the ocean pioneer,
 When he had gained the coast before unknown,
 Gazed in rapt wonder at the glorious scene,
 Undreamt of, save in some few godlike souls,
 Chosen from out the multitude to do
 Their mighty Maker's will.

Itself a world—

No clime than this hath prouder, brighter hopes,
 With its innumerable and untrod leagues
 Of fertile earth, that wait but human skill,
 And patient industry—by commerce fed—
 To win their way to eminence as proud
 As any nation on the varied earth.

O'er other climes,

The balmy winds may breathe more fragrant sighs,
 And rarer flowers may in their gardens bloom ;
 But, in stern majesty and grandeur, none
 May bear the palm away. Our waters wide
 Enrich ten thousand leagues of choicest earth ;
 And songs of praise arise where late the wild
 Had never felt the tread of aught beside
 The roving hunter and his panting prey ;
 And while we shed the unaffected tear
 For those who could not share their fathers' homes
 With the rude stranger, but had rather died,
 We trace the hand of Him, the Mighty One,
 Who bade his ministers to seek the caves
 Where dwelt the heathen—there to preach His word,
 And teach all nations of the earth to know
 His name and His omnipotence—we feel
 That all is ordered for one mighty end,
 And willing bow to His all-wise decree !

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PRESENT POSITION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF ENGLAND.

THERE is no subject of more momentous interest to every civilized nation, than an inquiry into the *present position of England* ; there is no topic of higher importance (socially speaking) to the whole family of man, than an endeavour to ascertain the *future prospects of England*. The first branch of inquiry would involve an investigation of proximate and remote causes of almost indefinite extent, and, on this occasion, an exposition of results is all that can be expected, reserving for a subsequent period, more minute, and perhaps, more satisfactory details.

One of the most prevalent existing opinions is that England has witnessed the acme of her power and, having passed the meridian, now hastens to decay. This inference is erroneously drawn, from observing, 1st, that individuals of the animal and vegetable kingdoms have their periods of youth, age,

and death ;* and, 2d, that all the great nations of antiquity have perished, leaving scarcely a vestige of their name ; the antiquary with difficulty tracing the spot on which the metropolitan cities of vast empires once stood.

But the inference is unsubstantiated in its premises, and not fairly supported in its conclusions. Examine one of the primeval forests of America—it has existed there for ages ; its limits, defined from the adjacent prairie by a broad and clear savanna, on which not a shrub is seen. True, the individual trees of the forest perish, but their place is immediately filled up ; ages roll on—tree succeeds to tree—the forest never becomes the prairie—and at the end of centuries is found in all its beauty, denseness, and vigour. The same principle is applicable to herds of animals, and to congregated masses of our fellow creatures. Thus, also, is it with a nation : individuals die—the nation lives, and will continue to flourish for ages, so long as the elements of moral diseases are subdued by virtue. The analogy, therefore, between the existence of an individual of a species, and the aggregate of a nation, is incorrect ; so also is the conclusion drawn from the supposed analogy.

Empires, kingdoms, and republics have risen from infancy to maturity, and then perished. No form of government, whether that of absolutism or democracy, has been found sufficient to save a nation from final extinction ; the seeds of dissolution were sown at birth, and were evolved when the physical and intellectual structure began to wane. Babylon and Nineveh—Egypt and Jerusalem—Tyre and Carthage—Athens and Rome—have all in succession risen from insignificance to power, and then vanished like the “baseless fabric of a vision ;” leaving scarcely a “wreck behind.” But because these memorials and records of *mere human greatness* are before us, does it necessarily follow that all nations must also have their rise and fall ? Sacred Writ most fully informs us of the cause of the destruction of kingdoms—because the people forsook the worship of the only true God, became idolaters, and were consequently destroyed by the very effect of their own vices and crimes. If Jerusalem, once the ark of a pure religion on earth, was destroyed, as oft foretold by the prophets, when the measure of its iniquity was full, is it reasonable to infer that any heathen nation could long uphold mere temporal power ? Rome, the mistress of the world, debased by the grossest idolatry, demoralized by the most fearful extent of slavery, corrupted by

* “The world, like the individual, flourishes in youth, rises to strength in manhood, falls into decay in age ; and the ruins of an empire are like the decrepit frame of an individual, except that they have some tints of beauty which nature bestows on them.”—*Consolations in Travel. Dialogue I. by Sir Humphrey Davy.*