

of hatred or, at least, of slight contempt for other nations, is generally involved in patriotism. We pride ourselves on being English, German or French, because each of us thinks that his nation is superior to any other. The Germans claim a superiority in the realm of philosophy and science, forgetting that there was a Newton and Darwin. The French have always considered themselves the torch-bearers of civilization, par excellence; yet they have never gained such large tracts of arable land from forest and wilderness as the English and Americans. England thought herself unequalled in the domain of industry and commerce; but during the last two decades a mighty rival has arisen to her in Germany. I do not think it is judicious for any nation now-a-days to claim a superiority over another in any department, for two main reasons:

1. Because we may not be able to form a correct estimate of the resources of foreign countries.
2. Because in these times of rapid progress the weak points in the material or mental development of a nation may be strengthened, so to speak, "over night."

Up to this time almost all the European nations have looked upon China as scarcely within the pale of civilization. "The heathen Chinese" has been the object of pity and ridicule on this continent, from the time he first made his appearance; and kind-hearted men and women, full of missionary zeal, started for China to teach and convert "the poor benighted pagans." But there, as well as in the East Indies, many missionaries made the experience that the people were not at all impressed with a sense of their inferiority in religion or culture; that both the Hindoos and the Chinese might justly claim to enjoy a far older civilization than we Europeans—their religious and philosophical systems, as well as their literature, being as old as any of the written records of the human race. It is true, the Christian missionaries made a great many converts in spite of these difficulties; but I think it is generally assumed that their field of labor has been largely amongst the lower classes. They found it easier to sow the seeds of the Gospel where the minds were free from preconceived notions.

Then, again, there have been times when certain defects of a nation were obvious to all the world; so that kind neighbors tried to take advantage of the weak people. This was the case with Germany in 1870. The nation was not united then; and, although Prussia had shown her strength in defeating Austria only four years previously, the French made light of Germany's military forces, boasting that the whole campaign would be nothing but a march to Berlin.