

supply other countries with those superfluities they require, their remoteness and natural protection from the only powers that can injure them, their industry, freedom and affluence, insure a rapid augmentation of population, strength and prosperity.

Should the great events transacting in Europe lead to the independence of South America, new and incalculable advantages must accrue to both these portions of the western world. A vast natural alliance might be formed, capable of plans the most glorious and beneficial; an alliance that may set Europe at defiance.

It was the opinion of an eloquent and philanthropic historian,* after considering the situation and prospects of this country, "that the only way to prevent disturbances among the people would be to leave upon their frontiers a powerful rival, always disposed to avail himself of their dissensions. Peace and security, says he, are necessary for monarchies; agitation and a formidable enemy for republics. Rome stood in need of Carthage. Venice, perhaps, would have lost her government and her laws four hundred years ago, had she not at her gates, and almost under her walls, powerful neighbours, who might become her enemies or her masters." In like manner, the Romans, says one of their most judicious writers, were free from faction and vice, while they had to make head against hostile neighbours: *metus civilis in bonis artibus civitatem retinebat*. And where a population is so dispersed as that of America, foreign

* Raynal.