

predominated over his love of war. His political institutions came to naught because he could not bear to leave in them the grain of freedom required to make despotism bearable, even to the French, in a civilized and thinking age. Rather than give that grain, he chose to gorge his people with perpetual repasts of "glory," in quest of which he continued his murderous raids over Europe, till trampled Humanity rose and put him down. Napoleon was a giant of intellectual power. Cromwell was one of the greatest of men. To decide which was the mightier force is impossible. Cromwell had far smaller means at his command and contended with far greater obstacles. Everything was broken up before Napoleon's advent, and he had but to fling the wrecks aside: instead of meeting in the establishment of his power with resistance so stern and resolute as that of the Republicans who opposed the Protectorate, he had but to put his foot upon the necks of creatures utterly destitute of moral force and self-respect, prone to servitude and eager to be bought. Even the victories which made his fortune as a soldier, and gave him the talisman and the ascendancy of success, were won with the enthusiastic levies of the Revolution over the hired machines of Austria led by superannuated pedants. With the first national resistance, though it was that of the undisciplined peasantry of Spain, his march of victory ended, his reverses began. Of material greatness nine-tenths are accident: the only thing which has nothing of accident in it is morality.

That which makes the character of Napoleon so transcendently evil is that, in the whole course of history, no man has flung away such an opportunity of doing good. Had he, when fortune put supreme power into his hands, thought not of himself alone, but of his country and humanity; had he remained a true servant of liberty and progress; had he, when France was secured against aggression, closed the era of the Revolutionary wars, and turned his mind to the work of peace; had he in a generous and unselfish spirit founded institutions which would have preserved the real gains, while they discarded the