

## ENGLAND'S GREATNESS.

Testimonials Collected from the Tomes of History from Distinguished Writers of Various Nationalities.

"The colonies and dependencies of Great Britain embrace about one-seventh of the land surface of the globe and nearly one-fourth of its population. The total area is estimated at 7,647,000 English square miles, or more than sixty times the extent of the United Kingdom. Of this vast dominion 3,000,000 square miles are in America, 500,000 in Africa, 1,000,000 in Asia, and more than 2,000,000 in Australia. April 4, 1881, the total population of the United Kingdom was 35,262,762, and of the colonies about 270,000,000."—*Statesman's Year Book*, 1883.

Milton, in his *Areopagitica*, utters these grand words: "Lords and Commons of England, consider what nation it is whereof ye are, and whereof ye are the governors; a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious, and piercing spirit; acute to invent, subtle and sinewy to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point, the highest that human capacity can soar to. Yet that which is above all this, the favor, and the love of Heaven, we have great argument to think in a peculiar manner propitious and propending towards us."

An eminent writer says: "There is half a million of cities, towns, and villages now under British rule. India alone has over sixteen nations, with a population of over 200,000,000 of people, and immense wealth and energy."

"The Anglo-Saxon everywhere is destined to rule. He has, somehow or other, a sort of instinct for governing. There is in him the right stuff to make governors of."

"You all know that passage in *Æthelwold's* *Kinglake* tells us how the people of Cairo cleared the way for him as he rode on a donkey. The donkey-boy ran ahead, shrieking as he ran: 'Eh, Shiek, eh, bwit, reggelek, shumalek.' 'O, old man, O, old virgin, get out of the way on the right. O, old virgin, O, old man, get out of the way on the left. This Englishman comes, he comes, he comes.'"

Here is an extract from the pen of Mr. Vernadsky, a Russian writer, a real genuine hater of Britain. He says:

"Britain is a menace to the safety of Europe. She is the most aggressive power of modern times. There is no part of the world where she has not established her garrisons or her colonies. Her fleet dominates every sea. What power is there that has not suffered from her ambition? She has torn Gibraltar from Spain, Malta and Canada from France, Heligoland from Denmark, the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch, the Gold Coast from the Portuguese, and Hong Kong from China. She has built up by the sword a military power in Asia, which secures her Government over two hundred millions in India. At Aden she holds the gate of the Red Sea. At Singapore she commands the road to China. From Fiji she dominates the Pacific. Her territory is vaster than that of Russia, and greater in extent than all Europe without Russia. Russia annexes no population, except Slavs and a few tribes in Asia, while of two hundred and fifty millions of Britain's subjects only twenty millions are Englishmen. What nationality has not some of its members under British rule? Italians at Malta, Spaniards at Gibraltar, Arabs at Aden, Germans at Heligoland, Dutch at the Cape, Chinese at Hong Kong, Malays at Malacca, Hindoos in India, Kaffirs in South Africa, Maories in New Zealand, and French and Indians in Canada."

A French writer of similar tendencies thus groups the facts for us:—

"Are there any other seas, any other continents; seek an inhabited or an uninhabited spot where Britain has not planted her flag? All newly discovered lands she unhesitatingly annexes to herself. When will this insolent usurpation cease? What balance of power can exist in the world in the face of such ambition, which increases with conquest and becomes extravagant by dint of impunity? It is not one nation, but every nation which should open their eyes. It is essential not for one people, but for every people to know whether the ocean itself is free, and if the whole universe is to fall back in the presence of the dominion of the shop-keeping Cæsars."

Victor Hugo speaks more kindly:—"Over that sea, in calm majesty, lies the proud island whose existence consoles me for a thousand continental crimes, and vindicates for me the goodness of Providence. Yes, yes, proud England, thou art justly proud of thy colossal strength—more justly of thy godlike repose. Stretched upon the

rock, but not like Prometheus, and with no evil bird to rend thy side, rests the genius of England."

"He waits his hour, but counts not the hours between. He knows that it is rolling up through the misty gloom of ages, and that the chariot is guided by the iron hand of destiny. Dare I murmur that the mists will not clear for me, that I shall not hear the rumbling wheels of the chariot of the hour of England. It will come—it is coming—it has come. The whole world, aroused as by some mighty galvanism, suddenly raises a wild cry of love and admiration, and throws itself into the bounteous bosom of England."

"Henceforth there are no nations, no peoples, but one and indivisible will be the world, and the world will be one England. Her virtue and her patience have triumphed. The lamp of her faith, kindled at the Apostolic altars, burns as a beacon to mankind. Her example has regenerated the erring, her mildness has rebuked the rebellious, and her gentleness has enchanted the good. Her type and her temple shall be the Mecca and Jerusalem of a renewed universe."

"D'Aubigny, the celebrated historian of the Reformation, after a visit to England, cannot refrain from giving vent to similar impressions:—

"I have been struck with admiration at beholding the people of those islands, encompassing the globe, bearing everywhere civilization and Christianity, commanding the most distant seas, and filling the earth with the power and the Word of God. At the sight of such prosperity and greatness I said: Ascribe ye strength unto God; His excellency is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds. O, God, Thou art terrible out of Thy Holy places. The God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God."

And in another paragraph the same eminent man remarks:—

"The Constitution of England, the balance of her powers, the slow but sure energy of the universal thought of the people, all this is so beautiful that we cannot but recognize the Master-hand."

Again: "What Tacitus said of the Britons is still true of them. They respect power, but cannot suffer the abuse of it. They know how to obey, but not how to serve."

Montesquieu gave utterance to some apothegms apposite to the subject on which I am treating:—

"No people have true common sense but those born in England."

"The Constitution of England is the admiration and the envy of the world; the pattern for politicians; the theme of the eloquent; the meditation for the philosopher, in every part of the world."

"The immediate object of their Government is political liberty; they possess more freedom than any republic; and their system is in fact a republic disguised as a monarchy."

It must be remembered these are not exclamations of the present hour, but the production of one of the greatest writers of any age.

Emanuel Swedenborg remarked:—

"For the English nation the best of them are in the centre of all Christians, because they have interior intellectual light. This appears conspicuously in the spiritual world. This light they derive from the liberty of speaking and writing, and thereby thinking."

Phillip de Commines expressed himself thus:—

"Now, in my opinion, among all the sovereignties I know in the world, that in which the public good is best attended to, and the least violence exercised on the people, is that of England."

Lamartine, in his *History of the Girondists*, although often attacking the policy of Great Britain, pays tribute to the greatness of the Empire and the grandeur of the character of its statesmen. He writes:—

"In England the mind a long time free had produced sound morals. The aristocracy considered itself sufficiently strong never to become persecuting again."

"England had been intellectually the model of nations and the envy of the reflecting universe. Nature and its institutions had conferred upon it men worthy of its laws."

Grosley, struck with amazement, exclaims:—

"Property in England is a thing sacred which the laws protect from all encroachment, not only from engineers, inspectors, and other people of that stamp, but from the king himself."

"In England," says Helvetius, "the people are respected; every citizen can take some part in the management of affairs and authors are allowed to enlighten the public respecting their own interest."

And Brissot, who had made these matters his especial study, cries out:—"Admirable constitution! which can only be disparaged either by men who know it not, or else by tongues bribed in slavery."

"The English nation," says Voltaire, "is the only one on earth which, by resisting its kings, has succeeded in lessening their power. How I love the boldness of the English! How I love men who say what they think!"

"The English," says LeBlanc, "are willing to have a king, provided they are not bound to obey him."

"For forms of government let fools contest, Whatever's best administered is best."

Lecky, the great historian and philosopher, says of the Anglo-Saxon race:—

"That the great source of their national virtues is their sense of duty, the power of pursuing a course which they believe to be right, independently of all considerations of sympathy or favor, of enthusiasm or success. Other nations have far surpassed them in many qualities that are beautiful, and in some that are great."

"It is the merit of the Anglo-Saxon race that beyond all others it has produced men of the stamp of a Washington or a Hampden; men careless indeed for glory, but very careful of honor; who made the supreme magnitude of moral rectitude the guiding principles of their lives; who proved in the most trying circumstances that no allurements of ambition and no storms of passion could cause them to deviate one hair's breadth from the course they believed to be their duty. The unwearied, unostentatious, and inglorious crusade of England against slavery may probably be regarded as among the three or four perfectly virtuous acts recorded in the history of nations."

Emerson, in his book on England, says:—

"The culture of the day, the thought and aims of men, are English thoughts and aims. A nation considerable for a thousand years since Egbert, it has in the last centuries obtained the ascendant, and stamped the knowledge, activity, and power of mankind with its impress. Those who resist it do not feel it or obey it less. The Russian in his snows is aiming to be English. The practical common sense of modern society, the utilitarian direction which labor, laws, opinion, religion take, is the natural genius of the British mind. The influence of France is a constituent of modern civility, but not opposed to the English for the most wholesome effect. The American is only the continuation of the English genius into new conditions. See what books fill our libraries. Every book we read, every biography, play, romance in whatever form, is still English history and manners."

In his speech at Manchester he said:—"That which gives a solitary American in the woods a wish to see England is the moral peculiarity of the Saxon race—its commanding sense of right and wrong—the love and devotion to that; this is the imperial trait which arms them with the sceptre of the globe."

You all remember the eulogy of Daniel Webster:—

"England is a power to which, for purposes of foreign conquest and subjugation, Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared; a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth daily with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

Irish American Hymn.

My country 'tis for thee—  
Unlike poor Erin—free.  
I give my thanks,  
Land where the O's and Macs  
Hold offices in stacks,  
Make laws and levy tax  
On poor old "Yanks."

Land where the "flannel-mouth,"  
Runs things from North to South,  
Praise to thy "rings,"  
In the saloons we fix,  
All things in politics,  
To suit the "hoodling" Mick—  
Who are the kings.

In the parochial schools,  
Children can grow up fools;  
(They will, we hope),  
Hail to thy Clan-na-Gael,  
May its plots never fail!  
To seek it out-throats hail!  
Hail to the pope!

Land where the thief or rogue,  
If he possess a brogue,  
Ne'er goes to jail,  
Thou art the place for me,  
Where "hoodle" flows so free;  
Bid Yankee tyrants flee!  
New Ireland hail!

—*Chicago American*.  
Ottawa's assessment for 1891 is \$17,638,110, an increase of \$523,150 over this year's figures. The amount assessed for public school taxes is \$12,810,300, and for separate schools, \$4,733,675.

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