

tile navy, of our fortifications and other means of defence ; the extent of our internal improvements ; and, beyond all, the extensive territories reclaimed from a state of nature, and made productive, and valuable, are adverted to, that opinion will not appear unfounded nor extravagant.

Although now inferior to the principal nations of the old world, yet but a short period will elapse before the United States, should their progress hereafter be the same that it has been, will overtake and pass them. Their great natural advantages will continue to urge them forward. Extensive tracts of fertile land yet remain vacant of inhabitants ; the portions already settled are capable of supporting a much more numerous population ; new roads and new canals will give greater activity to internal commerce, and open new fields to the untiring industry and enterprise of man ; and a small part only being required by the government, nearly the whole annual income will be added to the general capital, augmenting it in a compound ratio.

That these splendid anticipations are not the suggestions of national vanity, the history of the past sufficiently proves. Yet their fulfilment depends in a great degree upon the future conduct of the people themselves ; upon their adherence to the principles of their fathers ; upon the preservation of free political institutions, of industrious, frugal, and moral habits ; and, above all, upon the universal diffusion of knowledge.

This truth should sink deep into the hearts of the old and the young. The citizens of this re-

52