

when the source of inspiration may cease to flow; we have not laid before us, marked or limited, the ground over which he will eventually lead us. We go farther than we would have consented to walk, had he said to what point he would take us. There is something like surprise, if not stratagem, in his inducing us to accompany him. Not so, as regards him who writes. The reader has before him the written page; he counts, he measures. I am aware of this, and yet I cannot close this letter; for I have still much to say. I have only spoken of things material; and have not yet alluded to what has passed in the moral and political world, while I dwelt among strangers.

A new republic had sprung into existence on your very borders. Some of the statesmen of Europe affected to believe, I say affected, because I am aware, that in spite of their dislike of freedom, their abhorrence of our institutions, they nevertheless believe in the purity of our public men, that the revolution, which had separated that province from its parent state, had been brought about by the United States for the furtherance of purposes of aggrandisement. But our government refused the proposed increase of our territory, lest the world should suspect that the influence of our vicinage had been exerted in order to its annexation to the Union. This national abnegation was a triumph for your representatives abroad. It justified the opinion, which they have ever sought to establish in Europe, that our government, in its international relations, is ruled by those maxims of eternal justice which sway honest men in the private affairs of life. This has added more to our influence and respectability abroad, than the possession of Texas would have done, coupled with the belief that it had not been fairly obtained. Then came the civil war in Canada; and again were the same sinister predictions renewed, with the same insane expectation of their realization, among the unbelievers in national faith and virtue. It must be acknowledged there were grounds on the part of our Government, for mature deliberation. The American character had been traduced by the Governor of one of the Canadas, in a manner to wound the just susceptibility of a proud people—nay, acts of hostility had occurred that might well have justified reprisals. The representatives of America, with a unanimity that astonished Europe, hastened to place, in the hands of the Chief Magistrate, “the sword and the purse”—a phrase which I almost loathe to use, since it has been made the cant-word of political hypocrisy—happily England was governed by ministers, honest and enlight-