

reignty, are without bounds, and no force or privation that an enemy could apply, would force a submission. War might ravage their fields, conflagrate their villages, sack their towns, and slaughter a part of their population; but those who remained would avoid subjugation by dispersion, or retirement to the seat of some new empire.

Thus at considerable length, and I fear little to your satisfaction, have I attempted to communicate those ideas of the American people, which have been formed from long acquaintance and deliberate examination. You may think my retrospect has too much the appearance of apology or panegyric. Into what errors I may have been betrayed by a partiality, which I am proud to acknowledge, I cannot determine; though a strict regard to the unexaggerated truth has guided my pen. Probably they are not the fewer from a feeling, which all along accompanied me, that I was repelling prejudices, the demolition of which was to be the first step toward my object. An affectation of contempt for America, is one of the only prejudices in which all the nations of Europe seem to concur. The soil, climate, productions, and creatures of this enviable country have been stigmatized as altogether inferior to those of Europe. And the gravest philosophers of the old world have led the way in these ignorant, absurd prejudices, against the new. The soil has been represented as parsimonious and abortive; the climate as froward and pernicious; the creatures as stunted, stupid, and debased below their species; the manners, principles, and government, as suited to this universal depravity. These