

times; and man may be said to have nearly attained the summit of natural and moral improvement. The laws of Jurisprudence are administered with impartiality and integrity. Literature; in all her departments, and art, in all her perfections, are now seen to flourish, in almost every country, to a most extraordinary degree. The abuses of tyranny are restrained by the mutual influence of fear and shame. Republics have acquired order and stability. Monarchies have imbibed the principles of freedom. And, some sense of honour and justice is introduced into the most defective constitution by the general manners of the times. The actual realization of this, with the experience of centuries, should enlarge our hopes and diminish our apprehensions. We cannot determine to what height the human species may aspire in their advances towards perfection; but it may safely be presumed, that no people, unless the face of nature is changed, will relapse into their *original* barbarism. Yet the experience of several thousand years has taught us the melancholy truth, that immutability forms no part of the system of human events; and that, however exalted nations may now consider themselves in knowledge, genius, and invention, the time *may* come when the possessors shall share the fate of those who have gone before them, and afford another example of the precarious tenure by which the human species hold the enjoyment of all that can contribute to their improvement in the present life, and the happiness of a future world.

It is on this account, that we deem it the duty of every man who feels an interest in the welfare and improvement of the human race to advance by every lawful means in his power the cause of universal knowledge. No matter how feeble these means may be. However rustic and inartificial the plough, the tillage may produce a good crop; and enable the succeeding cultivator to live in the most luxurious comfort on the produce of a soil which had been at first no less poorly cultivated than scantily provided with the fruits of future improvement. It is not so much in the *manner* as in the intention of such a spirit that the merit lies. It is not in the *representation* of the reality, but in the reality itself, that its intrinsic value ought to be searched for. Nor is it so much in the *performance* as in the effort that its true character is to be found. It becomes the people of this new Continent of the world to follow the dictates of this precept in the most ardent and vigorous manner. The inhabitants of the Continent of Europe, and especially of our own distinguished and pre-eminent Empire, are at present revelling in the full enjoyment of all that tends to enlighten and console the mind. The philosopher is proud of his discoveries—the poet is delighted with his genius—and the artist is almost vain of his performances. But as we know not the secrets of futurity, would it not be proper to invite a portion of all those triumphs of the mind to our own distant shores; and, by all the fostering attentions in our power, encourage them to become denizens of this remote, but not uninteresting Colony? Other countries have done the same. Nations, who now give jurisprudence and learning to all the habitable parts of the earth, were once Colonies of a more extended Empire. When the tide and the buffetings of time shall have beat for a little longer upon the more ancient nations of the world, who knows but that the wild and unpeopled provinces of this modern Continent may become the refuge of the sciences and the mother of the arts? If he, for instance, who consults history, will be at the trouble of comparing the present most enviable