

collected from different quarters, and generally unacquainted with each other, arrangements were made to transport them to Trieste, where they were to embark for this country. This step they consented to, because the only alternative offered was, that they should be delivered up to Russia. They were to be transported in detachments; and the first that was sent off consisted of those who had been imprisoned for crimes, that their conduct might make an impression unfavourable to the patriots. Since their arrival in America, a discrimination has been made, and the unworthy set aside.

Here they now are on our coast, necessarily unknown, except so far as we choose to seek an acquaintance with them, ignorant of our language, manners, and habits, but, like the blind or the dumb, presenting on that account double claims to our sympathy and aid. Like those suffering under some natural infirmity from which we are happily free, they also teach us lessons of gratitude and of duty, under the superior blessings which we enjoy.

A banished Pole should move among us as a living monument of arbitrary power, and whenever we look upon him it should be with the recollection—"Here is a victim of despotism! Here is a man, such as our ancestors would have chosen to be,—if offered his alternative—slavery or banishment: here is one who has endured that arbitrary power to which our ancestors would not submit, but resisted, for the sake of their children."

It seemed to me, while conversing with some of these lonely exiles, as if Providence had sent them among us at this time not without a kind design. We have been so remote from the sight of oppression and violence, so long accustomed to regard tyranny and lawless rule as mere creatures of the imagination, that when sentiments are declared, and measures taken tending strongly that way, instead of taking the alarm, too many of us look on with indifference, as if there were a wall of impenetrable brass erected to secure our liberty. These melancholy and silent strangers seem to whisper to us, to beware of ourselves, our freedom, and our country: and if their presence shall render us any more watchful, if it shall lead us to reflect more in-