

National Character,

"Character is Power."

IN viewing the different nations of the earth the mind seems intuitively to apprehend what we may be permitted to term their "distinctive National Character," and its apprehension of that character is not developed by any process of reasoning, but arises in the mind with the absolute conviction of truth. If asked what this national character is, it would indeed be difficult for us to explain ourselves exactly, yet we feel there is such a thing as national character. Every one knows, who for a moment reflects upon the subject, that as countries become the object of his thoughts, people presents to his mind's eye different phases of character, and the shades of character amongst nations differ as widely as the shades of color from the European down to the African. But, although we may be at a loss to give an exact definition of our thesis, we may fairly presume that national character proper is but a reflex of individual character, it is the crystallization of a nation's correct thinking, and is not stereotyped or fixed, but receives modifications from every new phase of national thought, and as the individual character of those composing a State is good or bad, so will its effect upon that of the State be healthy or not. It is therefore, of the utmost importance for the instructors of youth to keep in view the ultimate effect of the mind they are forming upon the character of the State; this is a truth which we opine will meet with little or no contradiction. Our intention in this communication is not to develop any new idea, or to enunciate a new principle, we merely wish to awaken the recollection of a very simple fact which it seems to us finds its way with unerring aim into every heart, that as an individual is judged by his, so will a nation be judged by its character, and on the estimation placed upon it will depend much of its power in diplomatic relations with other States.

If statements can only receive the force of truth from illustration, we are at no loss to illustrate; we can point to a country, the not mentioning of whose name will scarcely conceal it, whose people are active, industrious and enterprising, if ever a people were so, and possess all the qualifications which ensures success in a strictly commercial sense, who with astonishing rapidity have built up new cities and made a perfect net work of railways of their country, but whose moral worth, notwith-