

man, and sooner or later, in the providence of God, though its pathway be incumbered with the ruins of thrones and wreck of dynasties, that destiny must and will be fulfilled. While scenes of unmitigated cruelty and ruthless carnage, coupled with deeds of atrocity unparalleled in the annals of crime, have signalled the temporary triumphs of tyranny in other and less fortunate countries, the peaceful and rapid progress of events in this division of the Western hemisphere, presents our own favored land, in bold relief, to challenge the wonder and admiration of the world. Here, the broad heritage of liberty is the birthright of the citizen. That precious inheritance, consecrated by the blood of the patriots of the Revolution, and regulated by a system of equal, just and salutary laws, has descended in unbroken succession from generation to generation, not only unimpaired, but enlarged, beautified and improved. From a Confederacy of thirteen States and three millions of population, occupying a Territory of three hundred and thirty thousand square miles, within less than three quarters of a century, that Confederacy has expanded into an Union of thirty sovereign republics, embracing an area of fourteen hundred thousand square miles, inhabited by a race of twenty millions of brave, energetic and enterprising freemen.

Nor do the remotest borders of these States, fix a limit to the territorial possessions of this mighty republic. Stretching far away to the West, beyond the shores of the Mississippi and the summits of the Rocky Mountains, it acknowledges no other bounds to its dominion than the breadth of a vast continent, washed by the majestic waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Between these natural limits, and its northern and southern frontiers, lies a country of every variety of climate, soil and production; rich in all the extensive resources of agricultural, mineral, manufacturing and commercial wealth; capable of sustaining and destined, at no remote day, to support a population of three hundred millions of men. In *this country*, liberty has erected her chosen empire—the only land on earth, blessed with a free republican government, where the will of the majority, constitutionally expressed, is supreme—where all men are born free and equal, and where the individual security, personal liberty and private property of the citizen, are protected and guaranteed by laws of his own enactment, administered by agents of his own election. In such a country, and under such a constitution has our lot been cast; the one, replete with monuments of the mercy and goodness of God, and gifted with all the attributes of a great and powerful nation; the other, pregnant with proofs of the wisdom and foresight of its authors, and of the capacity of man, on the most extended surface, for self-government and the fruition of rational and regulated freedom. Consequent upon a condition of things thus favorable and propitious, is the prevalence of universal prosperity in every portion of the confederacy; and, no where have its evidences been more abundantly exhibited than in our own beloved State. Of a mild, genial and salubrious climate—a soil fertile, productive and of easy cul-