

ascendancy, remarked, "The most disastrous periods, sir, in your history, were the wars of a disputed succession. We are always engaged in a civil war of this kind." By way of consolation, I reminded him that, at all events, there had been less bloodshed in their battles for the chief magistracy than in our contests for the rightful heirs to a throne. He replied, "Yes, there has been less destruction of the body, but not of the soul. A president who has 60,000 places in his gift holds in his hands far greater means of bribery and corruption than did your Harry the Eighth, even after he had seized upon the property of the monasteries."

One of my travelling companions in Ohio assured me that agricultural labourers from the Lowlands of Scotland were the best settlers of all who came direct from Europe. Some of these had arrived with a large family, and with no money even to buy the implements of husbandry, and had in twelve years become the owners of 300 acres of cleared land, in which the log-house was replaced by a neat farm building, called a frame-house, with a small garden attached to it. They laugh here at the common error into which new settlers fall, who possess some money, and have been accustomed to English farming, especially their diligence in uprooting stumps, which have so slovenly an appearance. This practice seems to be in their eyes the most unequivocal test of extreme ignorance of the relative value of labour and land in a new country. Foreigners who have a small capital should always settle in districts which have been already cleared, and broken up by the plough.