

government of laws made by themselves, pursue, unmolested, upon the land and upon the sea, their peaceful occupations :

“That although we have heard the distant rumor, and seen the preparations for war our common country is yet at peace with the world.”

In no part of the address was any claim set up to the peculiar favor of God, or his special intervention in chastising the nation for particular transgressions ; nothing to imply that He does not govern the world by fixed and general laws, moral and physical, which it is our duty to study and obey, and which, if we disobey, whether from ignorance or willfulness, will often be made the instruments of our punishment even in this world. The proclamation concluded thus, in the good old style :

“Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this 1st day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, and of the Independence of the United States the seventieth.

“GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

“By his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council.

“JOHN G. PALFREY, Secretary.

“God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

The almost entire absence of pauperism even in the large towns, except among the old and infirm, forms a striking point of contrast between the state of things in New England and in Europe. One of my friends, who is serving on a committee in Boston to see that the poor who are too old to work have all necessary comforts, has just ordered, as one of the indispensables, a carpet for the bed-side of an old woman. Yet, within five miles of Boston, some of the newly arrived emigrants of the lower class of Irish, may now be seen living in mud huts by the side of railway cuttings, which they are employed to dig, who are regarded by many of the native-born laborers with no small disgust, not only as the most ignorant and superstitious of mortals, but as likely, by their competition, to bring down the general standard of wages. The rich capitalists, on the other hand, confess to me, that they know not how they could get on with the construction of public works, and obtain good interest for their money, were they deprived of this constant influx of foreign labor.