

important difference between the members of the human family, when placed in the same circumstances, in the facility with which they acquire useful knowledge, and adopt the arts and rules of civilized life. There is, indeed, a great diversity in these respects between individuals; but I am here comparing nations, or tribes, with one another. And if their susceptibilities of improvement are nearly equal, then, since Providence furnished them in the earlier stages of society with nearly equal means of improvement, it is fair to take those who are the most advanced as a standard by which to estimate the deficiencies of the others. Let us take for an example our progenitors of Great Britain. They were not, indeed, quite as low on the scale of intellect as some other heathen nations. But the horrid system of Druidism, which there prevailed, which could be satisfied with nothing but human victims for sacrifice, must have been like the blast of death to every thing pure, and lovely, and noble. They who could submit century after century to such a system of gloomy superstition, must have been about as much degraded as human nature can be. Nor did the Saxon conquest, which brought in little more than swarms of pirates, with a religion almost as debasing as Druidism, afford much alleviation to the gloomy picture. Nevertheless, in the amalgamated character which resulted, there were certain elements, which have, in the course of centuries, brought out the noblest development of human nature which the world has ever witnessed. What a vast storehouse of cultivated intellect has the Anglo-Saxon race been, all over the world, for the last three hundred years! What brilliant discoveries, what immense acquisitions, what mighty conquests, have they made in art, science, and literature! And as a consequence, what vast accessions have they made to the means of human usefulness and happiness!