

truth. In vain did the courts of Genoa, Lisbon, and London reject his proposals. Ferdinand and Isabella gave him at last the desired aid. But in the superstitious fears and discouragement of the sailors he had a still more formidable difficulty. Yet his forty years' nautical experience enabled him to triumph even here. The results of his success have even yet only begun to be developed. But the uses to which Providence has already put this western continent are an earnest of the yet more important part it is destined to fulfil in working out the destinies of the race.

The manner in which progress in civilization, learning, morality, and religion has usually been made is by developments made, first in one field and then in another, by individuals or communities fitted for the work. When, for instance, the period had arrived in which it was desirable that civilization should be carried into the inhospitable regions of Russia, Peter the Great appeared, possessed of the requisite qualifications. Had he not been a fierce and unyielding tyrant, he never could have controlled the ferocity or overcome the prejudices of an ignorant people. But he must also be willing to take the place of a humble learner, or he never could have gone into the ship yards of Holland and England as a common carpenter and blacksmith, and even at home to make his own generals and admirals take precedence of himself, while he was learning military and naval tactics. To expect, however, that such opposite qualities should be long exhibited by any man, and especially by one who was at the head of forty millions of people, with unlimited power, was absurd, unless some peculiar controlling influence was brought to bear upon him. Therefore it was that God gave such a power to the foundling girl Catharine, who could control the fiercest paroxysms of the tyrant. In this singular manner