that I know no stronger expression in our language than that which describes the restoration of a wayward son—"he came to himself." He had broken away from all the ties of love, family, and friendship. He had forsaken everything which he once regarded in his father's house. He had quitted his natural sympathies, affections, and habits, and taken his journey into a far country. He had gone away from himself, and out of himself. But misfortune overtook him, and famine threatened him with starvation and death. No entreaties from home followed him to beckon him back; no admonition from others warned him of his fate. But the hour of reflection had come, and nature and conscience wrought within him, until at length "he came to himself."

And now, ye men of the new States of the South! You are not of the original thirteen. The battle had been fought, and won, the revolution achieved, and the Constitution established, before your States had any existence as States. You come to them a prepared banquet and bad seats assigned you at table, just as honorable as those which were allotted by others. You have been and are singularly prosperous; and if any one should deny this, you would at once contradict his assertion. You have bought vast quantities of choice and excellent land at the lowest price; and if the public domain has not been bestowed upon you, you yourselves will admit that it has been appropriated to your owners by a very liberal hand. And yet the sons of these States—not in all—persons are found in favor of a dissolution of the Union, or of secession from it. Such conditions are expressed even where the general prosperity of the community has been the most rapidly advanced. In the flourishing and interesting State of Mississippi, for example, there is a large party which insists that her grievances are intolerable, that the whole body politic is in a state of suffering, and all along, and through the whole extent on the Mississippi, a loud cry rings that her only remedy is "secession," "secession." Now, Gentlemen, what infliction does the State suffer under? What oppression prostrates her strength or destroys her hopiness? Where is the man judge of the proper remedy we must have something of the disease; and, for my part, I confess that the real evil suffering in the case appears to me to be a certain impatience, or uneasiness, growing out of a high degree of prosperity and consciousness of wealth and power, which sometimes leads men to be ready for change, and to push on to self-injury and self-ruin. If this be the truth of the matter, the political dangers are about right. If the complaint spring from overwrought prosperity for that disease I have no doubt that secession would prove a sovereign remedy.

But I return to the leading topic on which I was engaged. In the department of invention there have been wonderful applications of science to arts within the last sixty years. The spacious hall of the Patent Office is at once the repository and proof of American inventive and practical skill. These results are seen in the numerous improvements by which labor is abridged.

Without going into details, it may be sufficient to say that many of the applications of steam to locomotives and manufactures; of electricity and magnetism; the production of mechanical motion; to the rebirth of telegraphy; the registration of astronomical phenomena; to the art of stereotyping engravings; the introduction and improvement among us of all the important inventions of the Old World, are strikingly illustrative of this country in the useful arts.

The net-work of railroads and telegraph lines by which this vast country is reticulated, have not only developed its resources, but united emphatically, in metallic bands, all parts of the Union.

The hydraulic canals of New York, Philadelphia and Boston, surpass in extent and importance those of ancient Rome.

But we have not confined our attention to the immediate application of science to the useful arts. We have entered the field of original research, and have enlarged the bounds of scientific knowledge.

Sixty years ago, besides the brilliant discoveries of Franklin in electricity, scarcely any thing had been done among us in the way of original discovery. Our men of science were content with reporting the experiments and diffusing a knowledge of the discoveries made in the Old World, without attempting to add a single new or original fact to the existing stock. Within the last twenty-five or thirty years a remarkable improvement has taken place in this respect. Our natural history has been explored in all its branches; our geology has been investigated with results of the highest interest to practical and theoretical science. Discoveries have been made in pure chemistry and electricity, which have received the approbation of the world. The advance which has been made in meteorology in this country, within the last twenty years, is equal to that made during the same period in all the world besides.

In 1793 there was not in the United States an instrument with which a good observation of the heavenly bodies could be made. There are now instruments at Washington, Cambridge and Cincinnati equal to those at the best European observatories, and the original discoveries in astronomy within the last five years in this country, are among the most brilliant of the age. I can hardly refrain from saying, in this connection, that La Place has been translated, explained, and in some instances his illustrations improved, by Bowditch.

Our knowledge of the geography and topography of the American continent has been rapidly extended by the labor and science of the officers of the United States army, and discoveries of much interest in distant seas have resulted from the enterprise of the navy.

In 1807 a survey of the coast of the United States was commenced, which at that time it was supposed no American was competent to direct. The work has, however, grown within the last few years, under a succession of able superintendents, in importance and extent beyond any enterprise of the kind ever before attempted.

These facts conclusively prove that a great advance has been made among us not only in the application of science to the wants of ordinary life, but to science itself in its highest branches—in its application to satisfy the cravings of the immortal mind.

In respect to literature, with the exception of some books of elementary character, and some theological treatises, of which scarcely any but those of Jonathan Edwards have any permanent value, and some works on local history and politics, like Hutchinson's Massachusetts, Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, the Federalist, Belknap's New Hampshire, and Morse's Geography, and a few others, literature has not produced a single work of any repute in literature.—We were almost wholly dependent on imported books. Now the Bibles and Testaments, for the most part, printed abroad. The book trade is now one of the greatest branches of business, and many works of standard value and of high repute in Europe, as well as at home, have been produced by American authors in every department of literary composition.

While the country has been expanding in resources, in numbers, and in wealth, the Government has applied a wise forecast in the adoption of measures necessary, when the world shall no longer be at peace, to maintain the national honor, whether by appropriate displays of vigor abroad, or by well adapted means of defence at home.—A navy, which has so often illustrated our history by heroic achievements, though restrained in peaceful times in its operations to narrow limits, possesses, in its admirable elements, the means of great and sudden expansion, and is, and will be, prized by the nation as the right arm of its power; an army, still smaller, but not less perfect in its discipline, and in many a field exhibited the military aptitudes and prowess of the race, and demonstrated the wisdom which has presided over its organization and government.

While the gradual and slow enlargement of those respective military arms has been regulated by a jealous watchfulness over the public treasury, there has, nevertheless, been freely given to the public service, to effect their quality; and each afford the nucleus of any enlargement that the public exigencies may demand, from the million of brave hearts and strong arms upon land and ocean.

The navy is the active and aggressive element of national defence; and, let those who control our sea-coast, must display its power in the seas and oceans of the world; to do this, it need not be large; and it can never be large enough to defend by its presence at home all the rights of its borders. But, in the absence of the navy, the brave hearts and strong arms of the army and militia do signal the enemy's line of battle ships and steamers, fallen upon our sea-coast. What will guard our cities from tribute, our merchant vessels and our navy-yards from conflagration? There, again, we see a wise forecast in the system of defensive measures, which, especially since the close of the war with Great Britain, has been steadily followed by our government.

While the perils from which our great country has escaped in the past are yet fresh in remembrance, a system of fortifications was begun, which now, though not yet complete, forces to our important points with impassable strength. Some than four thousand cannon may at any moment, within strong and permanent works, arranged with all the advantages and advances that the art affords, be turned to the protection of the sea-coast, and to be served by the men whose hearts they shelter. Happy for us that it is so, since these are the means of time which we have to supply! and since the improvements of naval warfare, by making distant expeditions easy and speedy, have made them more probable, and at the same time more difficult to anticipate and provide against. Let one fact illustrate this position. Let you take your scale and your dividers, and lay off on some area, in any shape you please, a triangle, square, circle, parallelogram, or trapezoid, and of an extent that shall contain 150,000,000 of people, and be had with the United States? Those persons who do habitually read and write than can be embraced within the lines of your demarcation.

But there is something even more than this. Man is not only an intellectual, but he is also a religious being, and his religious feelings and habits require cultivation. Let the religious element in man's nature be neglected, let him be influenced by no higher motives than low self-interest, and subjected to no stronger restraint than the limits of civil authority, and he becomes the creature of selfish passions or blind fanaticism.

The spectacle of a nation powerful and enlightened, but without christian faith, has been presented, alas! within our own day, as a warning lesson for the nations. On the other hand, the cultivation of the religious sentiment represses licentiousness, incites to general benevolence, and imparts to the whole body of the brotherhood of man, inspires respect for law and order, and gives strength to the whole social fabric, at the same time that it ennobles the human soul upward to the Author of its being.

Now, I think it may be stated with truth, that in no country, in proportion to its population, are there so many benevolent establishments connected with religious instruction—Bible, Missionary and Tract Societies, supported by public and private contributions—as in our own. There are also institutions for the education of the blind, the deaf and dumb; of idiots; for the reformation of the young children; for moral reform, designed for children and females respectively; institutions for the reformation of criminals. The extent of those numerous establishments in almost every village and town in the United States for the reception of the blind, the deaf and dumb, the idiot, the poor, many of whom have fled to our shores from the poverty and wretchedness of their condition at home.

In the United States there is no church establishment or ecclesiastical authority to maintain either by voluntary association or compulsory taxation. Public worship is maintained either by voluntary associations and subscriptions, or by trusts and donations of a charitable origin.

Now, I think it safe to say that a greater proportion of the people of the United States attend public worship decently clad, well behaved, and well seated, than of any other country of the civilized world.

Edifices of religion are seen every where. Their aggregate cost would amount to an immense sum of money. They are, in the general, kept in good repair, and consecrated to the purposes of public worship. In those edifices the people assemble statedly on the Sabbath day, which is sacredly set apart for rest by all classes, from secular employments. In those edifices prayer and worship, to listen to the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and discourses from pious ministers of the sacred profession.

This attention to the waste of the intellect, and of the soul, as manifested by the voluntary support of schools and colleges, of churches, and benevolent institutions, is one of the most remarkable characteristics of the American people, and has strikingly exhibited in the new than in the older settlements of the country.

On the spot where the first trees of the forest are felled, near the log cabins of the adventurer, there is seen rising together the church and the school-house. These have been from the beginning, and God grant that it may long continue to be so.

"On other shores, above their mouldering towers, In sullen pomp the tall cathedral frowns; Pleased with the pile, the wanderer first surveys Their slender shadows on the parks below; Lovely the vista that extends along the woodland track, The church's perfume from the earth's sweet sod, Eve, like a voice of the morning air, Hie, like a voice of the morning air, Hie, like a voice of the morning air, Hie