

neously with these ancient elephants and mammoths is a point hardly as yet demonstrated to a certainty; these flint weapons belong to a period of human history remote beyond conception. Records or documents printed or written by human hands, in forms which we moderns call letters, there are none: savages who use flint-headed weapons neither read nor write; they leave no traces even of their existence but their household implements and their weapons of war; these latter, (in the case under consideration,) being formed out of natural stones, are unassailable by time, and remain their only legacy to posterity.

But, at the same time, we must not forget to take into consideration the possibility of these ancient mammoths and elephants having lived down to a much later period in the earth's history than has hitherto been supposed. So that these discoveries may fairly tempt the geologist to give a longer period of existence to these animals, running far into the human epoch, rather than to put back the age of man to a more remote antiquity. Anyhow, it must not be forgotten that, to the mind of the candid inquirer, all these interesting discoveries are but unfoldings of the truth of Scripture. The facts of geology are but marginal notes, amplifying and explaining the outline of creation, as revealed to us in the Sacred Book.

Again, the ink upon the ancient Pompeian MSS. is just perceptible, and tells us that there are characters full of meaning upon that papyrus, which we may read if we only take pains and trouble enough; so, through diligent research, careful observation, and accurate reasoning, these ancient flint weapons, fashioned and formed by the hand of man, may ultimately turn out to form pages in the history of tribes of our own race of whose existence the present inhabitants of this earth never, until now, had any conception—tribes who lived and died in times when the human race was yet young, and who have now passed away, as we ourselves must and shall pass away.

THE AMERICAN ARMY AND NAVY.

THE United States army is calculated to fill European Powers with astonishment. Scarcely eleven thousand men suffice for the protection of a territory thirty times as large as England and ten times larger than France. But it must be remembered that this handful of troops is only for governmental purposes—garrisoning the few small forts that belong to the republic, and keeping the Indians on the frontier in check, while the real defence of the country is committed to a body of militiamen, or national volunteers, who amount to between two and three millions in number, five hundred thousand of whom could be speedily concentrated at any given point.

The regular army of the United States seems by no means a favourite service. The men look heavy, and the officers are destitute of that dash and *aplomb* characteristic of the military order in Europe. The former, though they receive good pay—varying from eight dollars a month in the

infantry to eighteen in the horse—have a poor appearance, and seem always hungry. The officers, who have the privilege of supplying them with board and bed, appear to starve them. The men complain of inadequate food, and often their sole shelter and repose are a blanket and rug. They are habitually discontented, and, though not flogged, are subjected, by way of punishment, to a most irksome drill, solitary confinement, and dragging heavy weights at their ankles. They have a dogged appearance, and consist for the most part of Germans and Irish, few Americans condescending to enter the ranks. The cavalry look especially heavy; but we believe they are all—horse as well as foot—men who will discharge their duty well.

The officers, as already remarked, want the European *élan*. They are a grave and orderly-looking set of men, clothed, like the troops, for the most part in grey. A *sombrero*, or "wide-awake" hat, turned up on the right, by no means increases the smartness of their appearance, though it may be useful in protecting them from that rain and sunshine to which they are much exposed. They more resemble "business men" than military. The seclusion in which they are kept in forts at home, or often dispersed for years in isolation on the frontiers, perhaps give them this thoughtful aspect. But they are honourable and high-minded men, and often of great scientific professional attainments.

But the real military force of the republic is its militia. It is customary, we are aware, for foreigners to speak of this body with ridicule; yet, a finer and more powerful set of men are nowhere to be found. Their appearance effectually contradicts the assertion that Americans are physically degenerating. This, indeed, is doubtless owing to the constant accessions they are receiving from Europe; but the drill, aspect, and effectiveness of many American militia regiments are scarcely inferior to those of any regular troops in the Old World. The volunteer cavalry, however, are often heavy enough.

The navy is the "crack" department of the American service, though frequently objected to by the citizens, in consequence of its supposed aristocratic tendencies, generated by frequent communication with Europe. The officers have thus a far more polished appearance than is usually to be found at home; and it is rarely from them that an Englishman will hear how his forefathers were "flogged" at Bunker's Hill, how the American frigates invariably "whipped" the British in the last war, and by what an extraordinary accident it was (the whole of the Americans being intoxicated!) that the "Shannon" floored the "Chesapeake." But their bravery is none the less in consequence of this superior courtesy, and more splendid vessels of war than those under their control are nowhere to be seen.

But the American navy is losing its *prestige*, on account of the rapid introduction of steam. Those splendid sailing frigates, which once were the smartest ships afloat, are now virtually superseded, and it is yet questionable whether the steam-vessels that have been built to supplant them will be equally effective. Ships of three thousand tons, like the

majority of steam-frigates they have lately equipped, will doubtless be formidable with their batteries of fifty guns; but it has yet to be determined whether a huge vessel, such as their "Niagara," of fully five thousand tons, and mounting only a dozen pieces of artillery, may, notwithstanding their heavy weight, not be destroyed by one or two swift gunboats armed with a solitary gun of equal calibre; her huge bulk, even at the distance of four miles, being easily hit, while their pigmy assailant would be but a speck upon the waters. Be this as it may, however, we have no doubt that in any future contest the Americans will discharge their duty well.

But it is ludicrous for the landmen of America at present to proclaim that they are ready to "whip the Britishers and flog the world." There is no doubt that, as the great republic consists of at least thirty states, many of which individually are larger than the United Kingdom, in the course of ages and progress of population, England is destined to succumb to her offspring. The gigantic sire will be followed by a still more gigantic son, under whose younger and more vigorous arm it will be no disgrace for his age and decadence to fall. But a long period must elapse before this eventuality occurs, and the States themselves may previously have been broken up by internal discord. At present, there is little doubt they would at first be beaten in any conflict with the naval forces of England or France; but their extent of sea-board is so great, and their internal resources are so vast, that they could scarcely fail in the end to prevail.

CHARLES JAMES FOX.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S "Letters" and "Life"* of Fox, contain little to modify the general estimate either of his public life or personal character. The story of these stirring times, however, is always fresh; and, in spite of the slovenly and confused manner of the biographer, many will read with interest these memorials of the great Whig leader, whose statue now faces that of his illustrious rival in the Statesmen's Gallery of the New Palace at Westminster.

The public life of Mr. Fox commenced in the House of Commons, where he made his maiden speech on the 9th of May, 1769, when little more than twenty years of age. On the 14th he again spoke in favour of the expulsion of the famous demagogue, John Wilkes. These youthful speeches were "off-hand," as his father, Lord Holland, exultingly said, and were remarkable for talent and not a little youthful forwardness. Horace Walpole, that invaluable chronicler of incidents not included in formal histories of his time, notices the "parts and presumption" of the young orator. Lord John Russell remarks of the same speeches, that "his doctrines at this time of his life were neither favourable to popular liberty nor agreeable to the practice of the constitution." He speedily changed, however, and became emphatically "the man of the people."

* Bentley, 1850.

In looking back upon the debates and conflicts of those times, it is melancholy to reflect how much time and energy were devoted to struggles for political power. The national strength, which, in the time of Chatham, had been combined for the defence and glory of the British Empire, was now wasted in intestine discussions. For thirty years of the reign of George III, the politics of the nation were comprised in a struggle between Privilege and Prerogative. The king fancied and declared that the Whig party wanted "to make him a slave for life;" and, whether right or wrong, his ruling idea was to resist them to the utmost of his power. There were always men eager to take advantage of this state of feeling, and to advance themselves under the guise of being the "king's friends." Others, on the contrary, appealed to the people for support, while maintaining that the king was aiming at "personal government" and "irresponsible power."

The results of this conflict are thus briefly described by Lord John Russell in his "Life of Fox."

"George III was animated by a conscientious principle and a ruling passion. The conscientious principle was an honest desire to perform his duty; and the ruling passion was a strong determination to make the conclusions of his narrow intellect and ill-furnished mind prevail over the opinions of the wisest, and the combinations of the most powerful, of his subjects.

"For the space of fifty years these two traits of his character had a mighty influence on the fortunes of Great Britain and of Europe. His domestic life, the virtuous example which he gave in his own court, his sincere piety, contributed much to the firmness with which the nation resisted the example of the French Revolution, and gave solid support to the throne on which he sat. But his political prejudices prolonged the contest with America; his religious intolerance alienated the affections of Ireland; his national pride, and his hatred of democracy, promoted the wars against France, whether monarchical or Jacobin.

"On the other hand, it was the task of Mr. Fox to vindicate, with partial success, but with brilliant ability, the cause of freedom and the interests of mankind. He resisted the mad perseverance of Lord North in the project of subduing America. He opposed the war undertaken by Mr. Pitt against France, as unnecessary and unjust. He proved himself at all times the friend of religious liberty, and endeavoured to free both the Protestant and Roman Catholic dissenters from disabilities on account of their religious faith. He denounced the slave trade. He supported at all times a reform of the House of Commons.

"These views and sentiments made him through life obnoxious to the king. The results of this antagonism were throughout, on both sides, not only political, but also in some degree personal. Thus, for a great part of his life, he appears as a kind of rival to the sovereign upon the throne."

It was to this antagonism that Dr. Johnson referred when he said, "Fox is a most extraordinary man, who has divided the kingdom with Cæsar; so that it was a doubt whether the nation should