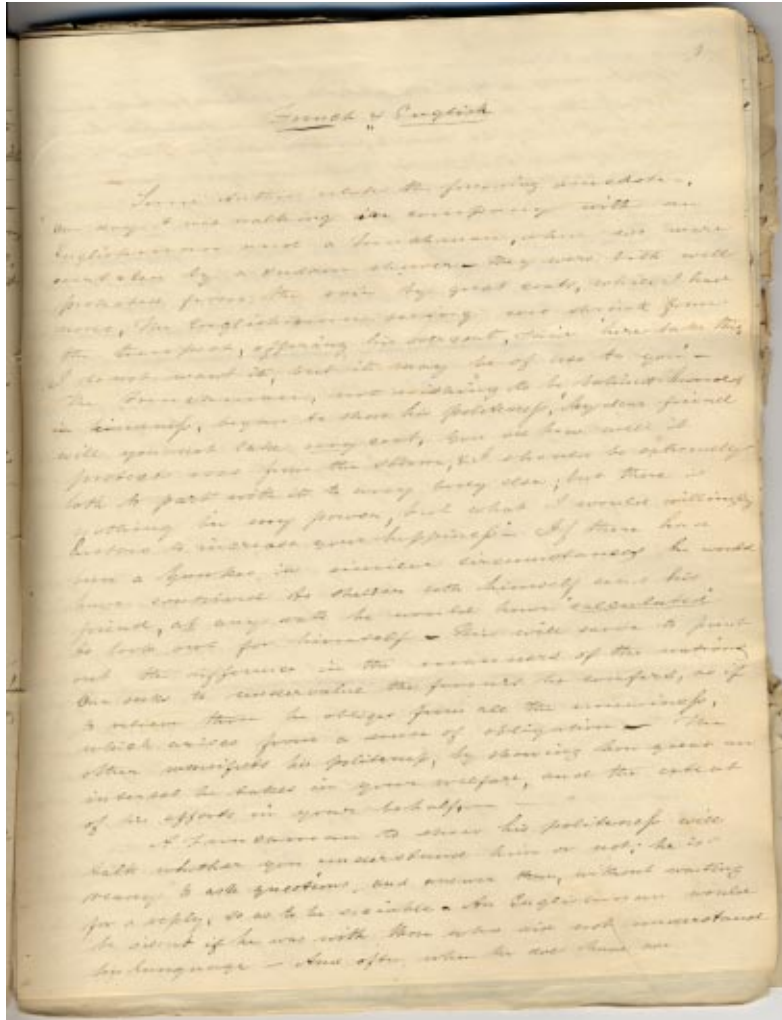


French & English

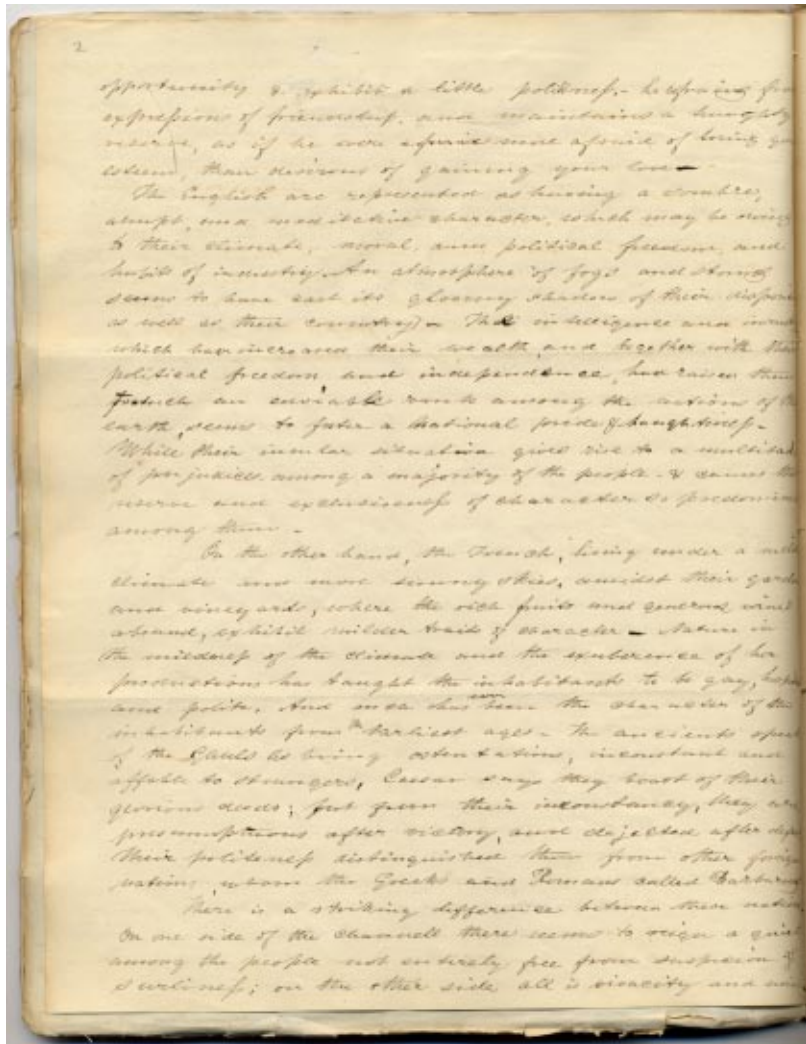


Some Author related the following anecdote, 'One day I was walking in company with an Englishman and a Frenchman, when we were overtaken by a sudden shower. They were both well protected from the rain by great coats, while I had none, The Englishman seeing me shrink from the tempest, offering his overcoat, said 'here take this,

I do not want it, but it may of use to you'— The Frenchman not wishing to be behind hand in kindness, began to show his politeness, ' My dear friend will you not take my coat, you see how well it protects me from the storm, & I should be extremely loth to part with it to any body else; but there is nothing in my power, but what I would willingly bestow to increase your happiness-' If there had been a Yankee in similar circumstances he would have contrived to shelter both himself and his friend, at any rate he would have "calculated" to look out for himself. This will serve to point out the difference in the manners of the nations One seeks to undervalue the favours he confers, as if to relieve those he obliges from all the ? ness, which arises from a sense of obligation. The other manifests his politeness, by showing how great an interest he takes in your welfare, and the extent of his efforts in your behalf.

A Frenchman to show his politeness will talk whether you understand him or not; he is ready to ask questions, and answer them without waiting for a reply, so as to be sociable. An Englishman would be silent if he was with those who did not understand his language—And often when he does have an

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Creation Date: ca. 1870  
Description: William Allen's humorous essay on the differences in character between Frenchmen, Englishmen and Americans

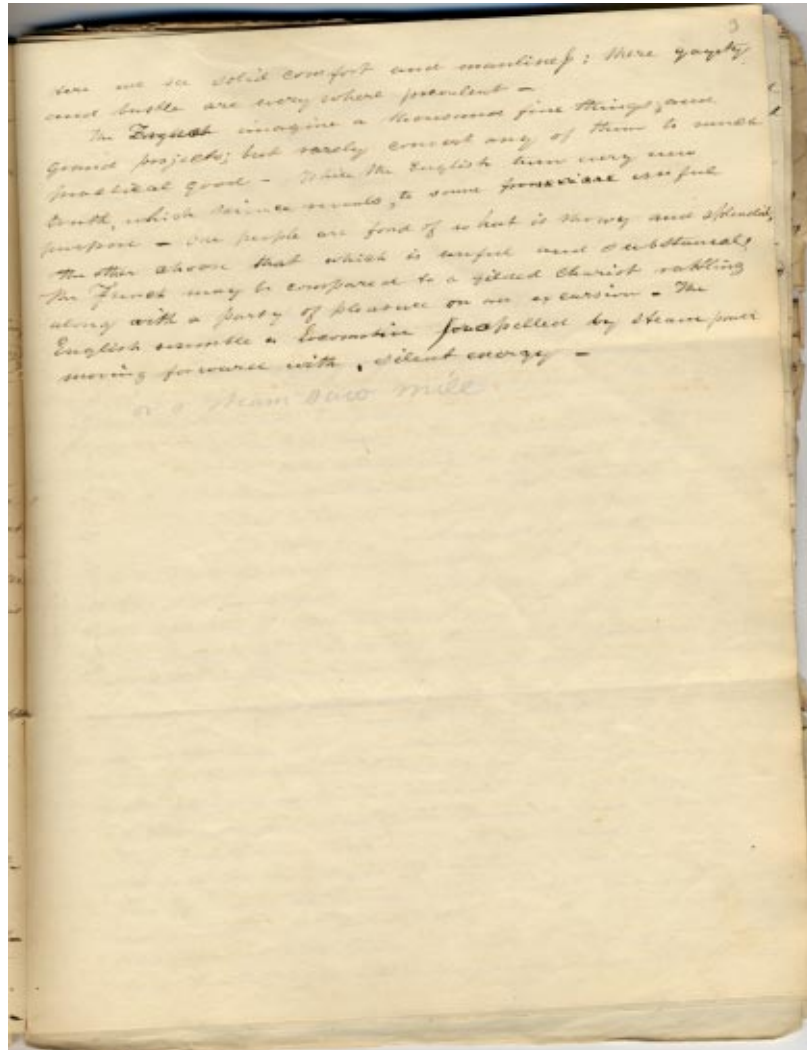


opportunity to exhibit a little politeness, - he refrains from expressions of friendship, and maintains a haughty reserve, as if he were afraid more afraid of losing your esteem, than desirous of gaining your love.

The English are represented as having a sombre, abrupt, and meditative character, which may be owing to their climate, moral, and political freedom, and habits of industry. An atmosphere of fogs and storms seems to have cast its gloomy shadow of their disposition as well as their country. That intelligence and industry which has increased their wealth, and together with their political freedom and independence, had raised them to such an enviable rank among the nations of the earth, seems to foster a national pride of haughtiness - While their insular situation gives rise to a multitude of prejudice among a majority of the people - & causes the reserve and exclusiveness of character so predominant among them.

On the other hand, the French, living under a milder climate and more sunny skies, amidst their gardens and vineyards, where the rich fruits and generous wines abound, exhibit milder traits of character. Nature in the mildness of the climate increase and the exuberance of her productions has taught the inhabitants to be gay, hospitable and polite, And such has ever been the character of the inhabitants from the earliest ages - the ancients speak of the Gauls as being ostentations & actions, inconstant and affable to strangers, Caesar says they boast of their generous deeds; but from their inconstancy, they are presumptuous after victory, and dejected after defeat their politeness distinguishes them from other foreign nations, whom the Greeks and Romans called Barbaroy [?]

There is a striking difference between these nations On one side of the channell there seems to reign a quiet among the people not entirely free from suspicion & surliness; on the other side all is vivacity and noise.



Here we see solid comfort and manliness: there gayety and bustle are every where prevalent -

The French imagine a thousand fine things and Grand projects; but rarely convert any of them to much practical good - ? the English turn every new truth, which science reveals, to some useful purpose. One people are fond of what is showy and splendid, the other choose that which is useful and substantial, the French may be compared to a gilded chariot rattling along with a party of pleasure on an excursion. The English resemble a locomotive propelled by steam power moving forward with silent energy -