

For, stripped of all that is accidental, and which only serves as a pretext for the continuation of the war, now that its ultimate result in the destruction of the Union is visible, is it not the desire of establishing a strong central government that animates the Republicans, one that would enable them to speak as masters to the rest of the world, and for which they are sacrificing the fundamental principle of the Union, the sovereignty of the States. But a central power is the monarchical power, and can only be exercised by a monarch; and setting aside the extreme abolitionists, for what is the Republican party fighting, unconsciously perhaps to itself, but this; and for what but the retention of the sovereignty of the States are the democrats ineffectually striving? So long as men are such as we know them will they covet power and distinction; and so long will they turn instinctively to the centralized, that is the monarchical system of government, because it is in that alone they find the desired objects of gratification in the forms least injurious, nay rather most beneficial to society. For under a monarchy men seek distinctions in fictitious objects, the ranks of nobility, and the orders of chivalry, and are content with them; while these to command respect must be made honourable by the lives of their possessors. Hence principles of honour, chivalrous feeling, courtesy, refinement, are of necessity cultivated by those, who have attained to, or seek admission into the ranks where honour is to be obtained: and society is benefitted and purified by the spirit that is evoked in consequence, and which more or less spreads to the whole mass. But under a democratic form of government money alone can confer distinction; and consequently gross corruption in public, and a narrow morality in private affairs necessarily follows; because these are the means by which money is gained most rapidly, and if distrusting the assertions of the admirers of either system, we would study the results of the two kinds of government, England and the United States are ready to our hands for the purpose. Now, though one would be very loath to affirm that all is perfection in the former, one can have no hesitation in declaring it to be scarcely possible to exceed the defect of moral principle in the latter. And the reason is on the surface. It is not that Englishmen are naturally better than Americans, but because the institutions under which they are trained, the influences which surround them through life, make them so. As men they are more honest and just; and the different reception the bills of the two countries meet with in the Exchanges of Europe, not to speak of repudiation, justify the assertion. As citizens they are freer; because, although the will of the majority in both countries determines the general policy of the State, in the former it is the will of those, who by education are qualified to appreciate the blessings of freedom, and are best qualified to be its efficient guardians, and not, as in the States, that of an ignorant mob, that acts under the influence of passions excited by the fustian of stump orators.