

republicans, inspired them with lofty notions of liberty and independence, and inclined them to bold and arduous undertakings. The human mind, thus put in motion by the influence of causes most favorable to mental exertions, the whole nation was directed, by multifarious pursuits, in those arts which subserve and adorn human life; and in those sciences which shed light and knowledge on the moral and natural world. Such has been the progress of human knowledge, and the prosperous state of nations, in ancient republics, when fostered by the freedom of enquiry, and other propitious causes.

So great an influence has civil government in shaping the mental features of a community, it is not strange that the wisdom of illustrious statesmen and lawgivers, should have caused them to have been classed among the gods. It is wonderful, that a science so intimately connected with the welfare of man, as that of civil government, should, amidst the extraordinary progress of general science, have been so imperfectly understood, till so late a period as the latter part of the eighteenth century. But it seems to have been reserved for the sages of the American revolution, successfully to embody into a wise, practical system of free government, an assemblage of maxims and principles, that had remained disjointed and scattered through works on civil polity, that had been accumulating from the researches and remarks of men who speculated on the science of government, for ages.

The citizens of the eastern states, although two centuries have elapsed since their first settlement, can hardly be considered as having formed a uniform national character. Their progenitors were emigrants from different parts of Europe—English, Scotch, French, High and Low Dutch. Having settled themselves down in a