

the protection and security of the persons and property of its members, which are best obtained by a system of equitable laws, whose authority protect the weakest and controul the mightiest. In every nation, where such a system of laws are established and revered, the inhabitants will be happy, whatever may have been the original or present form of government. It is for these reasons that some of the ablest political writers have properly called government an empire of laws, and not of men. Let any one examine the government of England and its American colonies since the Revolution, and he must acknowledge that they have been blest with the government of laws; no king or governor has dared to substitute his will for law; no fortification has been erected, no military force established to over-awe the colonies; the inhabitants have been permitted to carry their own arms; and it has been already clearly proved that they have neither been loaded with taxes nor otherwise oppressed, so as to prevent their living comfortably, and rapidly encreasing in wealth. Wherefore, their present revolt has arisen solely from speculative notions, the folly and wickedness of which must appear to every one who

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