

they were only the *vicegerents* of God. This form of government never existed among any other people than the Jews : for they were the only people upon earth, previously to the Christian era, that ever received revelation from God ; and the laws were contained in that revelation, which is generally called the Pentateuch, or Five Books of Moses.

III. MONARCHY, from *monos*, alone, and *archos*, a chief: government exercised, laws made and executed, by the authority and will of an individual. While the Jews lived under a theocracy, other nations lived under a monarchy variously modified. The patriarchal excepted, this is the most ancient form of government, and the form that has most generally prevailed.

Under this form may be classed,

1. AUTOCRACY, from *autos*, himself, and *krato*, I rule powerfully : a government in which an individual rules by himself without ministry, counsel, or advice. The Emperor of Russia is called *autocrat*. Most of the Asiatic Sovereigns and many of the African chiefs are *autocrats*, and act up to the spirit of this form. It is the highest order of monarchy, and often degenerates into tyranny.

2. GYNOCRACY, from *gyne*, a woman, and *krato*, to govern. This is simply a case where the male issue fails, and the crown descends in the female line : but it has nothing in its civil constitution to distinguish it from monarchy, &c.

3. DESPOTISM, from *despotes*, a master or lord ; from *despozo*, to rule ; which is from *deos* apazo, to inspire fears, or *deo*, to bind, and *pous*, the foot. Formerly *despot* signified no more than master or teacher ; and in this sense it is frequently applied to our Lord by St. Luke. It is now used only in a bad sense, and frequently confounded with tyranny.

4. TYRANNY : of this word various etymologies have been given. It is supposed to have come originally from the *Tyrrhenians*, who first had an oppressive and cruel government ; or from *Tyrra* a city in Laconia, where *Gyges* was governor ; or from *truo*, to oppress ; or from *teiro*, to drain or dry by compression ; hence *tyros*, *cheese*, compressed milk.

Originally the term *tyranny* appears to have meant no more than *monarchy* : but the abuse, or lawless exercise of power, brought the words *tyrant* as *despot* to imply, 1. A cruel and relentless governor ; 2. An unreasonable and oppressive ruler.

5. KING, from the Saxon *Cyning*, which is derived from the Teutonic *kennen*, to know, signifies properly the *knowing person*, the *wise man* ; he who had the highest education, was well acquainted with men and things, was deeply versed in the study of law and justice, understood the state of the nation, and knew how to rule it. We have the remains of this word in *ken*, knowledge ; and in *cunning*, i. e., knowing. *Canny* is from the same origin ; it is repeatedly used both in Ireland and Scotland to signify knowledge, skill, dexterity ; the *canny man* is the knowing, skilful man—he who understands how to perform, and performs so as to prove his skill.— Sometimes it is equivalent to gentleman.

IV. ARISTOCRACY, government by the nobles, from *aristos*, best, the superlative of *agathos*, good : men of title and estate, governing a country conjointly. Aristocracy generally prevails in a *regency*, where the hereditary governor is a minor or under age.

Under aristocracy may be ranked—*oligarchy*, from *oligos*, a few, and *arche*, government. A state in which a few men, whether of the nobles or plebians, but particularly the latter, have the supreme rule. This frequently prevails under revolutions, when the rightful governor is deposed or destroyed.

V. DEMOCRACY, a government administered by representatives chosen by the people at large : from *demos*, the people, and *krato* to govern.

Nearly allied to this is :—

Republicanism, from *Res publica*, the common wealth—what concerns the body politic at large. There is rather an affected than real difference between this and *democracy* : both are of the people, though the latter pretends to be of a more liberal type than the former.

Federalism, from *foedus*, a covenant, is a form of this ; a government formed out of several states, each having its own representatives, and sending them to a general Congress or Diet. It is constituted nearly, as our British House of Commons ; the representatives of the different states being similar to those of our counties. The President while in Congress, has little more power than the Speaker in the House of Commons : but in the interim of sessions, has a power similar to that of a sovereign monarch. A federal government may be considered a mixture of *democracy* and *oligarchy* : I speak of *federalism* as it appears in the American states.

VI. ANARCHY, from *a* privative, and *arche*, rule, or government ; where the legislative and executive power is acknowledged as existing nowhere, or rather equally in every individual ; and where, consequently, there is no rule ; all is confusion, every one doing what is right in his own eyes. This is generally the case both before, and for some time after most political revolutions.

At present only three kinds of government prevail in the world : 1.—*Monarchy* ; 2.—*Aristocracy* ; 3.—*Democracy* : and these are only distinguished by being more or less limited by law, more or less rigid in execution, or more or less mild in general operation.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE FORMS OF GOVERNMENT, SIMPLY CONSIDERED

MONARCHY (absolute) is prompt and decisive ; but often wrong, because the will or caprice of an individual commands and executes all.

ARISTOCRACY is slow, but generally certain : because the nobles enjoy superior light, and are well cultivated by education.

DEMOCRACY aims well ; but is violent, indecisive, and fickle ; often enacts without wisdom, and executes without foresight ; and is generally hasty in all its measures.

MONARCHY (absolute) keeps especially in view the prerogatives and glory of the Crown ; independently of all other considerations.

ARISTOCRACY keeps in view the honor and independence of the nobility, being often regardless of the people.

DEMOCRACY labours to bring all to a level, and keep it there ; and frequently destroys emulation, because, through its jealousy of power and influence, it, in effect, discourages profound knowledge and high achievements.

Neither of these forms, simply considered, is much to be preferred. The British Government, though called a monarchy, differs from them all ; and yet embraces them all. It is *monarchical*, and it is not. It is *aristocratical*, and it is not. It is *democratical*, and it is not. It consists of the three estates. It is *monarchical*, because it acknowledges a king as the supreme head ; it is *aristocratical* in its House of Lords, where the nobles possess a legislative capacity ; it is *democratical* in the House of Commons, where representatives chosen by the people possess the same power. These three estates are perfectly mixed by the constitution ; they counterbalance each other, each having an equal legislative authority ; and this government possesses in itself all the excellencies of the three forms. It can become corrupt, only when any of the three estates preponderates over the rest. In its nature and regular operation, it secures the prerogative of the monarch ; it preserves the honour and property of the nobility ; it respects and secures the rights of the people ; it is