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DEMOCRACY *v.* REPUBLICANISM.

The framers of the American constitution were careful to base it on the principle of *representation*—that is to say, that the voice of the people was to be expressed, and made effective, by persons specially chosen for that purpose, and not by the direct action of the people themselves. Thus the President, the chief of the executive government, was not to be elected by a direct vote of the people at large, but by a select body chosen by them to whom they intrusted the important duty of selecting the head of the Government. This principle prevails generally throughout the constitution, though, to a great extent, especially in the election of President, it has become an empty form, the purely party conventions having taken its place.

An equally important feature of the constitution was that which committed it to the protection of the Supreme Court whose duty it was to pronounce upon the validity or otherwise of any act or regulation which might seem to infringe upon the limits laid down by the document in which the constitution itself was set forth. Another important provision was that the judges during their term of office, whether appointed or elected by popular vote, were to be independent—their decisions might be appealed from to a higher court, but, in no other way could they be set aside.

In brief the three principles, viz.: representation—the power of the Supreme Court—and the independence of the judiciary, were the main pillars of the American constitution as originally set up, and which still form the basis on which it rests.

A party has now arisen in the United States of which ex-President Roosevelt is the leader, which holds that the people should not be bound by any such restrictions, but should be free to set them aside whenever they think their rights or their liberties are infringed upon—not by calling upon their representatives to