

tatorial powers are almost indispensable. Every general may not have the integrity of Washington.

In a most important respect the American republic has a vast advantage over all others that have preceded it; that is, in the extent of dominion, and dispersion of population. Athens, Rome, Venice, Carthage, most of the republics that have been, were at first confined almost to a single city, and always entirely influenced by the capital. So that pretorian guards, or ambitious men, by mastering the head, were sure of the extremities. But the same danger does not exist here. And as long as Canada and Louisiana remain even virtually under foreign influence, the same or a greater inducement exists for maintaining that most dignified of all national attitudes, the armed neutrality of a powerful republic. A military despotism, whether monarchical or republican, is the most odious and oppressive, the most disgraceful and destructive form of polity. In fact it is not a form, but a subversion of government, which, after destroying every thing else, at last destroys itself. It is a colossus, which falls as soon as its arm is no longer uplifted; from whose ruins petty tyrannies spring up, whose slaves are not entitled to enjoy till they assert the immunities of men, and which does not become a government till the supremacy of the law is re-established. But a dominant republican empire, with military force enough to defend its rights, without so much as to instigate an ambition to subvert them; just and respectable abroad, free and just at home; forms the most glorious consummation of national prosperity.