

fashion. Were I to decide, my Son, between the respective aristocracies of honour and of wealth, I think I should give the former a preference, because it naturally produces civility, since it depends on publick estimation; whereas the other is the very parent of arrogance. And I never knew any men demand more notice, and practise more ostentation, as I think I observed to you before, than the "*hommes parvenus*," who grew up, like mushrooms, with sudden exuberance, in the rank soil of commercial prosperity.

There were families, who cultivated and boasted a family interest. But this dangerous idea sprang from an excess of wealth above the general mediocrity, and it tended to events the most important. For no sooner did it appear, from the measures of Virginia and her associates, that a political sovereignty, of whatever name, was about to be formed in the South, than every exertion was made among influential men of the North, to increase their influence, and form a separate dominion. For this purpose there was a sufficiency of means, which were now collecting with diligence.

During these discussions and attempts, the Middle States, as they were named, persevered in a steady course of Republicanism, with great firmness. The society of Friends, which religious sect had gained a preponderance both in wealth and power in the State of Pennsylvania, united their views and exertions with those of the sober, frugal, industrious Germans, and stood unmoved by either the threats or flatteries of their neighbours. Similarity of interests attached to them the yet disconnected States of their immediate