

order to explain the nature of this singular government, it will be necessary, in the first place, to take a very cursory view of its history, and to notice the change of parties which, in the short space of twenty years, has already taken place in the United States. This short disquisition, while it is essential to the solution of the problem we are considering, may perhaps suggest to you some curious observations on the nature of free governments in general, and more particularly on that of the United States.

It is well known, that the present constitution of America was framed by a body of delegates from the several states, who sat at Annapolis, in the year 1789, and of which Generals Washington and Hamilton, and Dr Franklin, were the most conspicuous members. It is also well known, that the constitution, or plan of government, which this august body, after many months deliberation, gave forth, (although the United States have now for twenty years been prospering under it beyond all expectation and example,) was established with much difficulty and after a strenuous opposition from a