

handed down from generation to generation, that an aristocracy is constituted." Another circumstance which greatly contributed to prevent the establishment of an aristocracy, was that in England the stronghold of the Puritans was the middle classes; and it was from these classes that the majority of the emigrants came. New England, therefore, from the first "seemed destined to behold the growth, not of the aristocratic liberty of the mother country, but of that freedom of the lower and middle orders, of which the history of the world had, as yet, furnished no complete example; and while the hierarchy of rank despotically classed the inhabitants of England, the colony continued to present the novel spectacle of a community homogeneous in all its parts. A democracy, more perfect than any antiquity had dreamed of, started in full size and panoply from the midst of an ancient feudal society."

As early as the year 1650, Townships were completely and definitively established. In these little communities all concerns of local police were regulated, and all matters of common interest discussed. "The independence of the townships was the nucleus round which the local interests, passions, rights and duties collected and clung. It gave scope to the activity of a real political life, most thoroughly democratic and republican."

Universal Education also engaged the attention of the people at a very early date. Public schools were established in every township, and the inhabitants obliged by law to support them.

The magistrates were authorized to enforce upon the parent the attendance of his child, under penalty of a fine for non-compliance; and in case of continued refusal, the child was taken from its home and placed under the care of public authorities. They thus, by securing the succession of a people imbued with the same principles, "erected their republic upon the only sure basis on which it can ever exist—General Education."

In Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Providence, (afterwards included in it,) the Government naturally became a democracy, since they constituted a society of their own accord, having been founded without the assistance, and almost without the