

and Humanity freed from its polluting grasps for ever.

We may therefore look into the past with satisfaction and with the consciousness that we have contributed something towards the advancement of mankind and the happiness of the generations which will live after us.

But if it be true to say that we have been useful to humanity and civilisation, in securing the abolition of slavery, it may be safely affirmed that we have not been less so, in maintaining the Union and the integrity of the Republic, and by the same effort, the great democratic principle of the sovereignty of the people which lies at its foundation and is the basis upon which it rests. The American Republic was the first one among all the republics known to the world which was founded upon the principle that *every man was born free and that the source of all power and of all sovereignty lies in the people and in the people only.* Athenes and Rome were both the centers of mighty republics in the olden time, but in neither of them was there a form of government such as is enjoyed by the American people. In Athenes, the Government was in the hands of rival factions, each of which employed all its

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