

must have made a certain degree of impression on the then black and very soft surface of my mind. It is however true that a retention in a sense of loyalty counteracted powerfully the depth of the impressions that ever came its baneful effects. There remained on it nothing else but a notion that mankind in general was not so happy as they could be, and that the obstacle to their happiness existed not in the rulers but in their subordinate agents. The alluring rights of man often set down before me did not meet with my admiration, but I had a kind of glimmering that that word *right* was too indefinite to express the exact relation between man and man in society, and that there must be some more proper to convey the just idea of that relation. I recurred to the gospel often mentioned by my friends; I read in it "Do to others that which you would be done by," and Heavenly philanthropy took possession of my soul. From that moment the word *right* was expunged from my dictionary and that of *duty* was substituted for it. Indeed the right of every one cannot be maintained but by the strict adherence to duty on the part of all. The conclusion was very easy. Trace exactly the duty of all, enforce the performance of that duty and the rights of no one will be infringed. Such is the end and the object of that which is called a Constitution and such, on studying it, the English Constitution appeared to me. I studied it not only in its practical part as described by Blackstone and De Lolme, but also and more particularly in history. There I found its rise, its progress, its struggles and the completion of its harmony. I studied it in the speeches of the Senators and in the virulence of pamphleteers. At first I startled at the constant and violent attacks directed against it, but my fears soon gave room to my admiration, when I saw the cool contempt with which it reviewed those repeated assaults, sure that it was that it had sufficient power to repress those attempts when carried to a dangerous height.

It is not in the abstraction of theoretical reasonings that we must look for appreciating the advantages or disadvantages of forms of Governments, but this appreciation must be founded on facts. Now the history of England presents a succession of almost all forms of Government. Absolute Monarchy with its pos-