feitable rights to civil, religious & political liberty, is a principle that obtains fundamentally in all liberal constitutions. Few have had the happiness to reap the ~~benefits~~ benefits of free institutions simultaneously. So that while a small portion of mankind have been blessed with the advantages of free government, the rest have labored under the curse of domestick subjugation or foreign dominion. While the great mistress of the ancient world, was rising to the most splendid empire, in the uninterrupted enjoyment of republican freedom, other nations saw no array of brightness above their own horizon; nothing, but one wide waste of moral & political darkness. Along the vast tract of time that intervenes between those days & the present, some few republicks arose, but expired in almost as little time as it had taken to give them birth. Our own stood in solitude, awhile, until the United States of the South sprang into being, at its own, by the power of enchantment. In what form, Sir, do you suppose that she appeared to the rest of the world, then weeping over its own miseries & servitude? As the only verdant spot amidst the general desolation. Such, no doubt, did she appear to the transatlantick patriots, whose soul remained unbent to the measure of tyrants chains: who anxiously looked abroad for an asylum, in which his fellow men might hope to find a refuge.

But, why have republicks been thus solitary? Why have they expired in their infancy; & often, in the very convulsions with which they were produced? Surely not because of the unfruitfulness of the essential & constituent principles of social liberty? No, Sir: it was because ~~these~~ those principles were not rightly apprehended nor rightly practised. Instead of being based upon them rudimentally & substantially, that the superstructure might partake of their nature, & derive their benefits, they

© Maryland State Archives, msa_sc5807_22_1-0020.jpg