

raided upon the same foundations. But their construction & the means adopted for their safeguard were different.

The genius of most ancient nations were aspiring. Rome, when republican, was not contented with the freedom of her own laws, & exemption from foreign domination. War & conquest were her watchwords. They were the mottoes that distinguished her ensigns, and caused every opposing army to tremble & shrink before their array. Her domestic tranquillity was long marred by the odious distinctions, Plebeian & Patrician. These however, were soon abolished in relation to the enjoyment of the offices of state. Civil & political equality was introduced. Peace & concord reigned, for awhile, in triumph. — As power injudiciously balanced, inclines too much to the hands of single rulers, her citizens, in the administration of the high offices of Consul & Dictator, & in the unconstitutional increase & prolongation of Proconsular power, became charged with faculties dangerous to her safety, & subversive of the first principles of good government. Subordination & patriotism were superseded by sedition & violence & the factious enterprises of ambitious & unprincipled adventurers. From these sources flowed the unexampled effusions of blood under Sylla & Marius, & the host of demagogues & military aspirants who succeeded them. Thus, by degrees, did the republic of Rome lapse into empire. And after exhibiting some of the sternest realities of human depravity, she fell prostrate under the incursions of her ruthless barbarians, & yet remains the wretched wreck of her ancient magnificence. — How are the Grecian republics constructed? Were they tempered with the moral attributes, "peace & good will to men"? Were these principles introduced into their constitutions, as the grand moderators of their liberty & equality? No. Sir. They were too ardent in the pursuit of foreign conquest, & too often turned their