

and enlivened constitution. But, in truth, she was then nurturing within her own bosom the wild affections of anarchy. The spirit of liberty, sleeping in inaction, when awaked, arose & cast off its fetters, as the lion, on his morning walk, shakes from his mane the dew-drops of heaven. Thus enlarged, it degenerated into the licentiousness & mad ferocity of the tiger. Unrestrained by the confines of one kingdom, it suddenly overleaped the barriers of others, erected for their own defense; where it devastated all that was fertile, & despoiled all that had been consecrated. Not content with the triumph at home, it idly & ingloriously perished on foreign battlements. Instead of commencing the work of revolution, with gravity & wisdom, the French people rushed, with their characteristic levity, into the wildest excesses of disorder. Instead of being admonished by the fatality that attended the adoption of false rules & maxims of government, by former nations, they plunged themselves into all the horrors of war. Instead of being the reign of wise reform & virtuous administration, it was emphatically "the reign of terror."

Such, Sir, was the nature of those free governments that were precedent to & contemporary with our own. But let no man be so vain as to judge of the probable success of the latter by the subdivisions of the former. What, I pray you, was the great secret that remained so long undiscovered? It was nothing less than popular representation. It is true that England had introduced it as a branch of her constitution, whence it was derived by the framers of our own. But our fathers won the imperishable fame of applying it more largely, & firmly based on the sovereignty of the people. The balance in this system is most admirably adjusted between the different