

utions. Whenever the human mind has been hurried in
 darkness, has been the reign of tyrants & of kings. A
 people unenlightened, are unable to discern their rights
 & interests, & if they do, are incompetent to prosecute them
 with any conformity to reason. It is over such, exclusive-
 ly, that the dominion of kings is legitimated. But, ^{even} in this
 instance, so soon as reason's maxims begin to be right-
 ly apprehended & rightly practiced, and the popular
 mind awakened from its slumbers, they should relax
 their government, & return the sovereignty to the peo-
 ple, its natural source. But kings, like all others,
 are subject to the influences of pride & ambition,
 at the suggestion of which, they rivet their chains more
 closely than ever, to perpetuate their throes. Were it
 possible to find, in any community, a man possessed
 of sufficient power to give strength to dominion,
 and native virtue to secure it from corruption, it would
 be the wisest policy of such community to place him
 at its head to rule its destinies: because the virtue
 & wisdom of one man, are ^{more} efficient than the loose
 & dislocated energies of a great & heterogeneous mass.
 As all mankind, however, are alike in weakness
 & proneness to error, it should be carefully preserved
 in the hands of its natural proprietors.

In what nations sooner the spirit of liberty has been
 irradiated with the light of the understanding, it has
 never failed to arise & vindicate its claims. And whenever
 republics have been successfully established, they have,
 first of all, chastened & purified & sublimated it in the two
 fold alembick of virtue & intelligence. Greece, Rome,
 the Italian States, Holland & Switzerland were far more
 enlightened by the true philosophy of nature, while they en-
 joyed their free institutions, than they ever were before, or
 have been since. These were their golden ages - These