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FROM THE TEMPLE OF NATURE.

A Poſthumous Poem by DARWIN.

"Here, high in air, unconſcious of the ſtorm,
Thy temple, Nature, rears its myſtic form;
From earth to heav'n, unwrought by mortal toil
Towers the vaſt fabric on the deſert ſoil;
O'er many a league the ponderous domes extend,
And deep in earth the ribbed vaults deſcend;
A thouſand jaſper ſteps, with circling ſweep,
Lead the ſlow votary up the winding ſteep;
Ten thouſand piers, now join'd and now aloof
Bear, on their branching arms, the fretted roof.

Unnumber'd ailes connect unnumber'd halls,
And ſacred ſymbols crowd the pictur'd walls;
With pencil rude forgotten days deſign,
And arts, or empires, live in every line;
While, chain'd reluctant on the marble ground,
Indignant Time reclines, by Sculpture bound;
And, ſternly bending o'er a ſcroll unroll'd,
Inſcribes the future with his ſtyle of gold.
—So erſt, when Proteus on the briny ſhore,
New forms aſſum'd of eagle, pard or boar,
The wiſe Atrides bound in ſea-weed thongs,
The changeful god amid his ſcaly throngs;
Till, in deep tones, his opening lips at laſt,
Reluctant, told the future and the paſt.

Here, o'er piazza'd courts, and long arcades,
The bowers of Pleaſure root their waving ſhades,
Shed o'er the panzied moſs a chequer'd gloom
Bend with new fruits, with flowers ſucceſſive bloom.
Pleas'd their light limbs on beds of roſes preſs'd,
In ſlight undreſs recumbent Beauties reſt:
On tiptoe ſteps ſurrounding graces move,
And gay deſires expand their wings above.

Here young Dione arms her quiver'd loves,
Schools her bright nymphs, and practiſes her doves;
Calls round her laughing eyes, in playful turns,
The glance that lightens, and the ſmile that burns;
Her dimpling cheeks with tranſient bluſhes dies,
Heaves her white boſom with ſeductive ſighs;
Or moulds with roſy lips the magic words
That bind the heart in adamantine cords.

Behind in twilight gloom, with ſcowling mien,
The demon Pain convokes his court, unſeen:
Whips, fetters, flames, pourtray'd on ſculptur'd ſtone,
In dread feſtoons, adorn his ebon throne,
Each ſide a cohort of diſeaſes ſtands,
And ſhudd'ring Fever leads the ghaſtly bands:
O'er all, Deſpair expands his raven wings,
And guilt, ſtain'd Conſcience darts a thouſand ſtings.

Deep whelm'd beneath, in vaſt ſepulchral caves,
Oblivion dwells, amid unlabell'd graves;
The ſtoried tomb, the laurel'd buſt o'erturns,
And ſhakes their aſhes from the mould'ring urns,
No vernal zephyr breathes, no ſunbeams cheer,
No ſong, nor ſimper, ever enters here;
O'er the green floor, and round the dew damp wall,
The ſlimy ſnail, and bloated lizard crawl;
While, on white heaps of intermingled bones,
The muſe of Melancholy ſits and moans;
Showers her cold tears o'er Beauty's early wreck,
Spreads her pale arms, and bends her marble neck.

So in rude rocks, beſide the Ægean wave,
Trophonius ſcoop'd his ſorrow-ſacred cave;
Unbarr'd, to pilgrim feet, the brazen door,
And the ſad ſage, returning ſmil'd no more.

Shrin'd in the midſt, majeſtic Nature ſtands,
Extends o'er earth and ſea her hundred hands;
Tower upon tower her beamy forehead creſts,
And births unnumber'd milk her hundred breaſts;
Drawn round her brows, a lucid veil depends,
O'er her fine waiſt the purfled woof deſcends;
Her ſtately limbs the gather'd folds ſurround,
And ſpread their golden ſelvage on the ground."

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Auguſt 8. 2awtf.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

A DEFENCE OF *REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENTS.*

LETTER THE THIRD.

Definition of a Republican Government, &c.

Before we proceed to a direct enquiry into the relative advantages and evils of a Republican and other forms of Government, it is abſolutely neceſſary to define what is meant by a Republican ſyſtem of government.

The radical meaning of the word *Republican*, throws no light on its actual reception, inaſmuch as it relates not to the nature, but the end of government. It ſimply expreſſes that end as conſiſting in the promotion of the *public good*.—This is the avowed object of all governments, whether republican, monarchical, or ariſtocratical. It is, therefore, evident that, ſo far as reſpects the etymology of the word, they are all republican, and that, in this view the definition amounts to nothing.

When we ſpeak of the form of a government, it is obvious that we do not ſo much regard the ends for which it is deviſed, as the means adopted for the accompliſhment of them. It will, therefore, follow that in defining the meaning of a republican *government*, we muſt fix the features that *discriminate* it from other ſyſtems, inſtead of thoſe by which it is aſſimilated to them.

A republican government can only be founded upon theſe principles:

1. That the People are the ſource of all power.

2. The People themſelves muſt exerciſe all political power, or thoſe who exerciſe it muſt be elected by, and be reſponſible to them; for which purpoſe there muſt be preſcribed modes in which the people may expreſs their ſentiments and carry them into effect.

Where never theſe principles unite, the government is republican; and wherever they are wanting, it ceaſes to be ſo. It follows that, of republican governments there can be but three kinds; that which is democratic, in which the people themſelves exerciſe all political powers—that, which is repreſentative, in which political power is exerciſed by thoſe choſen by them;—and that which, combining the principles of democracy and repreſentation, aſſigns the exerciſe of particular powers to the people themſelves, and of other powers to their repreſentatives.

Had this definition been generally received, this ſyſtem of government would have been ſpared many of the reproaches caſt upon it by ignorance or hoſtility to liberty. We ſhould not have been told by our countryman that republicaniſm may mean any thing or nothing, nor would the wit of a British apoſtate have ſo wantonly held it up to ridicule.

According to this definition, it is apparent that the only deſcriptions of republican government that have exiſted in the world antecedent to the formation of the American Conſtitutions, were the ancient democracies and the fugitive repreſentative bodies that ſprung up in the early years of the French Revolution.

In Greece and Rome there exiſted either pure democracies, or but imperfect repreſentation of the people. With regard to the former, however applicable they may have been to the exiſting ſtate of the world, they have long ſince ceaſed to apply to the altered ſituation of men. Whatever weight may be attached to other objections to them, it is of itſelf concluſive that they imply a paucity of numbers and a limitation of territory too ſmall for the permanent exiſtence of nations. While, therefore, we contemplate the ſyſtems of ancient Greece as ſo many illuſtrations of the energies of the democratic principle, and view, with rapture and aſtoniſhment, the virtues, the talents, and the power they created and ſuſtained, we ſhall be obliged to acknowledge that they are unfitted to the preſent ſtate of the world, and that the exiſtence of governments at the preſent day, ſimilarly organized, would be evaneſcent and precarious.

Though, however, we diſcard this ſyſtem as unwiſe, becauſe impracticable, the bright examples of ancient times ſhould arreſt the attention of legiſlators, and inſpire them with ſentiments of reſpect and affection for principles which elevated the human character to an eminence of glory unequalled by the influence of other cauſes. He, who would view the greateſt union of virtue and talent, of the ſimplicity of the private blended with the ſplendour of public life, of a love of country and of liberty, pure, ardent, and inextinguiſhable, capable of every ſacrifice without meanneſs, and of every effort without pride, will fly to Grecian ſtory. There he will behold human actions performed on ſo grand a ſcale of heroiſm that he will ſoon ceaſe to be ſurpriſed at the numerous deities of a people, who ſeem to have found in the characters of their Gods alone the images of themſelves.

Theſe virtues and talents and elevation of character, which enabled ſuch ſmall ſtates to triumph, for ages, over ſuperior numbers, were probably owing to every member in the community, or at leaſt a large portion of thoſe members, having a ſhare of political power in their hands, immediately and directly exerciſed by them. If ſuch then were the mighty effects of this principle, ought not modern legiſlators, while they are obliged, from the different ſtate of the world, to organiſe governments on other principles, to retain as much of it as is not incompatible with the new principles on which their ſyſtems are formed? Are we not authoriſed in aſſuming it as juſt, that that government will be the moſt energetic and the moſt auſpicious to virtue and abilities, which leaves the largeſt practicable ſhare of power in the hands of the people, to be by them uſed according to their own judgments?

The ſyſtem, which deviates leaſt from a democracy, is that founded entirely on the repreſentative principle. They who adopt this principle follow the order of nature, and the practice of every intelligent man in the tranſactions of common life, who devolves on another what he cannot himſelf perform. The devolution of the truſt is always accompanied by an expreſs ſtipulation or tacit underſtanding, that the agent is under the conſtant control of, and reſponſible to the principal. In private life, it is none but fools or madmen that give to others an abſolute power over their concerns.

And ſuch is the caſe, when the people, who are the ſource of all rightful power, eſtabliſh a ſyſtem of government for themſelves on the principle of repreſentation. They devolve duties on their repreſentatives, who, for their correct execution, are made reſponſible to them. Of this ſpecies of government, in which the means have been commenſurate to the end; that is,—in which the people have choſen their own rulers, according to preſcribed forms fixed by themſelves, with a conſtant reſponſibility to them:—There are no inſtances to be found, unleſs in the early years of the French revolution. There have, it is true, been various ſyſtems in which ſome feeble attempts have been made to infuſe into them a portion of the repreſentative principle; but it has either been ſo ſmall, ſo awkwardly organized, or ſo imperfectly protected, that they have poſſeſſed nothing but the name of a repreſentation of the people. Incapable of protecting themſelves from aggreſſion, they have invariably become the inſtruments of, inſtead of conſtituting the defence againſt, tyranny.

If this repreſentation be correct, it follows that no inferences hoſtile to the ſuperiority or duration of republican governments can be deduced from the fate of the imperfect ſyſtems under that name, that have heretofore exiſted.

Further extracts from Denon's travels in Egypt.

PYRAMIDS.

"At more than ten leagues from Cairo we diſcovered the points of the pyramids piercing the horizon; ſoon after we ſaw Mount-Katam, and oppoſite to it, the chain of hills which ſeparates Egypt from Lybia, and forms a barrier to the banks of the Nile againſt the ſands of the deſert; but in this eternal conflict between this deſtructive ſcourge and the beneficent river, the inundation of ſand often overwhelms the country, changes its fertility to barrenneſs, drives the labourer from his houſe, whoſe walls it covers up, and leaves no other mark of vegetable life than the tops of a few palm-trees, which adds ſtill more to the dreary aſpect of deſtruction.

"I felt delighted in ſeeing theſe mountains, and viſiting monuments, of which both the date and object of conſtruction are loſt in the night of paſt ages; my mind was full of emotion on contemplating theſe vaſt ſcenes, and I regretted the approach of the night, which ſpread a veil over ſo ſtriking a picture to the imagination, and concealed from me the point of Delta, where, among other magnificent plans, it was agreed to build a new metropolis, for Egypt. At the firſt dawn of day I again ſaluted with my eyes the pyramids, and took ſeveral views; and it was intereſting to ſee on the ſurface of the Nile, then at high flood, the different villages glide before the eyes, backed by theſe monuments, which were deſtined to record events that gave local intereſt to every object.

"I wiſhed to be able to draw them with that fine tranſparent hue which they derive from the immenſe volume of air that ſurrounds them: this is a peculiarity belonging to theſe monuments, which they owe to their great elevation; for the vaſt diſtance at which they are diſtinguiſhable, renders them almoſt tranſparent, and the blue tint of the ſky cauſes their angles to appear ſharp and well defined, though they have been rounded by the decay of years.

"About nine o'clock the noiſe of cannon announced to us the approach of Cairo, and the feaſt of the new year, which was then celebrating. In our preſent poſition we ſaw numerous minarets ſurrounding Mount-Katam, and proceeding from the gardens on the banks of the Nile, whilſt Old Cairo, Bulac, and Roda, appearing as part of the town, gave it an appearance of verdure and freſhneſs, and added to its magnificence. As we approached, however, the illuſion vaniſhed; every object returning as it were to its proper place, we only ſaw a heap of villages collected near an arid rock; and, I know not why, remote from the beautiful banks of the river.

"When I arrived at head quarters at Cairo, I learnt that the commander-in-chief was then ſetting out for the pyramids, accompanied by two hundred men, who were to protect them in their reſearches. I now lamented that I had not known of this expedition a few hours ſooner, as I conſidered it fruitleſs to ſet out on ſuch a journey, without being provided with what was requiſite, in order to obſerve theſe objects of curioſity with advantage; and beſides, I was ſo fatigued with my former journies, that I much wanted to reſt all my limbs, ſo that I had determined to delay this expedition till the aſtronomers ſhould go to make their obſervations in theſe celebrated places.

"On leaving table, the General ſaid, "It is impoſſible to viſit the pyramids without an eſcort, and one cannot ſpare for the purpoſe a detachment of two hundred men." The aſcendancy which ſome minds have over others, at once deſtroyed all my reaſoning; it was this aſcendancy which made me a follower from France to Egypt, and it now determined me to be of the party to the pyramids; ſo, without re-entering home, I took my road to Old Cairo, and rejoined the comrades with whom I had been ſailing up the Nile. It was full night when we got to Gizeh, and I knew not where I ſhould repoſe; but in wandering about I found myſelf, by a good fortune which ſeemed like enchantment, in a hall furniſhed with fine velvet cuſhions, and ſcented with the preſume of a fine orange-grove, which gentle air wafted to us. I went down into the garden, which appeared by moonlight to be worthy the deſcription which Savary has given. This was the pleaſure-houſe of Murad-Bey. I had heard its charms depreciated, and I only now ſaw it after the march of a victorious army; but I could not help feeling that, without reſorting to needleſs compariſons, the oriental luxuries have their charms, and fill the ſenſes with voluptuous pleaſure. We do not here find, indeed, thoſe long alleys which are the pride of the French gardens, nor the ſerpentine walks of the English, where health and appetite are the reward of the exerciſe required to ſurvey them; but in the eaſt, where indolent repoſe forms one of the chief luxuries, the tents or kioſks are pitched under the thick branches of a cluſter of ſycamores, and open at pleaſure upon a fragrant underwood of orange and jeſſamine; to this is added the voluptuous pleaſure of enjoyments ſtill but imperfectly known to us, but which we may eaſily conceive; ſuch, for inſtance, as to be attended by young ſlaves, who unite, to elegance of form, gentle and careſſing manners; to be indolently ſtretched on vaſt and downy carpets, ſtrewed with cuſhions, in company with ſome favourite beauty, breathing perfumes, and intoxicated with deſires; to receive ſherbet from the hands of a young damſel, whoſe languiſhing eyes expreſs the contentment of willing obedience, and not the conſtraint of ſervitude. Surrounded with theſe delights; the burning African need not envy the inhabitant of Europe; and man may find happineſs wherever there is beauty and grace, whether in the gardens of Trianon, or repoſed on the banks of the Nile.

"The officer who commanded the eſcort happened to be one of my friends; he entered me in the liſt of thoſe who were bound for the pyramids; we were about three hundred. The next morning, after much waiting to collect the party, we ſet out, late as generally happens where many are to be put in motion. We ſailed through the fields by the inundation trenches, and after tacking often through the cultivated country, we landed about noon on the borders of the deſert, half a league from the pyramids. I took ſeveral views of them in different poſitions as we approached.

"As ſoon we quitted our boats we found ourſelves in the ſands, and climbed the level on which theſe monuments reſt. In approaching theſe ſtupendous buildings, their ſloping and angular forms diſguiſe their real height, and leſſens it to the eye; and beſides, as every thing regular is only great or ſmall by compariſon, and as theſe maſſes of ſtone eclipſe in magnitude every ſurrounding object, and yet are much inferior to a mountain (the only thing with which our imagination can compare them) one is ſurprized to find the firſt impreſſion given by viewing them at a diſtance, ſo much diminiſhed on a nearer approach. However, on attempting to meaſure any one of theſe gigantic works of art by ſome known ſcale, it reſumes its immenſity to the mind; ſo, as I approached to the opening, a hundred perſons who were ſtanding under it appeared ſo ſmall, that I could hardly take them for men. It would be a good method for the artiſt to give an idea of the dimenſion of theſe edifices, by repreſenting, on the ſame ground-plan as the building, ſome proceſſion or religious ceremony analogous to the antient cuſtoms. As it is, theſe monuments ſtanding alone, and without any living ſcale of compariſon, excepting a few detached figures in front, loſe both the effect of their grand proportions, and the general impreſſions which they would otherwiſe make. We have a good example of compariſon in Europe in St. Peter's church at Rome, the magnitude of which is concealed by the exquiſite harmony of proportion, till the circling of the general outline, till the eye deſcends to a proceſſion of the religious order celebrating maſs, and followed by a train of worſhippers, which in this ſituation appears like a group of puppets attempting to act Athalia on the ſtage of Verſailles. Another point of reſemblance between theſe two edifices is, that nothing but the deſpotiſm of a ſacerdotal government could venture to undertake them, nor any thing but the ſtupid fanaticiſm of a people would ſubmit to the labour of building. But to return to the actual ſtate of the pyramids; let us firſt aſcend a ſmall heap of ſand and rubbiſh, which is, perhaps, the remains of the trench of the firſt of theſe edifices which preſents itſelf, and which now leads to the opening through which it may be reached. This opening which is nearly ſixty feet from the baſe, is concealed by a general ſtone-facing, which forms the third or inner incloſure to the ſolitary entrenchment around this monument. Here begins the firſt gallery; its direction lies towards the centre and baſe of the edifice; but the rubbiſh, which has been but ill cleared out, or which, owing to the natural ſlope, has fallen back again into the gallery, added to the ſand daily drifted in by the north wind, and which is never forced out again, has ſo blockaded up its paſſage as to render it very inconvenient to croſs. At the extremity of this gallery two large blocks of granite are met with, which form a ſecond partition to this myſterious paſſage.

"This obſtacle appears to have perplexed all thoſe who have undertaken the reſearch, and has lead to ſeveral random attempts to ſurmount it. Endeavours have been made by former viſitors to cut a paſſage through the ſolid ſtone, but this proving unſucceſsful, they have returned ſame way, have paſſed round two blocks of ſtone, climbed over them, and thus diſcovered a ſecond gallery of ſo ſteep an aſcent, that it has been neceſſary to hew ſteps in the ground in order to mount it; this gallery leads to a kind of landing place, in which is a hole uſually called "the well," which is the opening to a horizontal gallery leading to a chamber known by the name of "the queen's chamber," without ornament, cornice, or any inſcription whatever.

"Returning to the landing-place, a perpendicular opening leads to the grand gallery, which terminates in a ſecond landing-place, on which is the third and laſt partition, conſtructed with much more art, and which gives a ſtriking idea of the importance which the Egyptians