succeeded, how often was the crown the prize of successful violence. Nor can the remark of the Roman historian, that “ to the firm establishment of this idea (namely, the here­ditary principle), we owe the peaceful succession and mild administration of European monarchies,” well be questioned, in the face of our own experience twice during the last cen­tury, of a disputed succession to the crown, and two civil wars in Great Britain.

Popular election, however, if it lead to faction and disorder, never fails to insure an able government, as the hereditary principle is as certainly a source of weakness. When the people have a free choice, they will always prefer merit to demerit; capacity for service becomes in this manner a passport to honour and distinction, and ability is secured for the business of the state. The great men who ruled in Greece and Rome almost invariably justified the choice of the people; their genius shone alike in war and policy, and the conquest of the world attested the wisdom of their councils. Still, if the elective principle, an ever-living source though it be of energy, give rise to violence and dis­order, it must be sacrificed to peace, the greatest of all bless­ings. We cannot make use of an agency, however power­ful, which we cannot control. But in America they had no choice ; they could not possibly have established a hereditary government, and hence they were driven upon the critical experiment of a republic. That experiment however has succeeded. The great political principle of popular election has been found to be compatible with all the great ends of government ; and the election of a supreme ruler takes place every four years, without the least disturbance. The system therefore no longer answers to the description of the Roman historian ; it is not an imagi­nary form of government, an airy fabric which experience overthrows ; it has been sanctioned by experience, and has been found to combine liberty and every civil right with good order and peace, while it admits no principle that can impair the native vigour of a pure democracy.

The legislative power is vested in a Congress, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The senate is composed of two members from each state, chosen for six years, by the respective state legislatures, and the seats of one third are vacated every two years. A senator must be thirty years of age, an inhabitant of the state for which he is chosen, and he must have been a citizen of the Unit­ed States for nine years. The members of the House of Representatives are chosen every second year, by the people, in the proportion of one for every 40,000 inhabitants, exclud­ing the Indians, and two fifths of the people of colour. The electors being the same as for the most numerous branch of the state legislature, the right of suffrage may be de­scribed as universal. A representative must be an inhabit­ant of the state for which he is chosen, twenty-five years of age, and he must have been seven years a citizen of the United States. No law can be passed without the concur­rence of both houses. When that is obtained, it is pre­sented to the president, who, if he approves, signs it ; if not, he returns it, with his objections, for the reconsideration of Congress, and it cannot in that case become a law without the concurrence of two thirds of the members. The execu­tive power is vested in a President, who is elected for four years, by a number of electors chosen for the purpose by the people, distinct from the senators and representatives whom each state sends to Congress, but equal to them in num­ber. The president must be a native citizen of the United States, and not under thirty-five years of age. His salary is 25,000 dollars (L.5500) per annum.

The Congress has power to impose taxes and duties to pay the debts and provide for the defence of the republic ; to borrow money; to regulate commerce; to establish uni­form laws of bankruptcy and naturalization ; to coin money, and fix the standard of weights and measures ; to establish post-offices ; to constitute tribunals ; to declare war, raise and support an army and navy; to call out the militia, and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining it. The president is commander-in-chief of the army, navy, and the militia, when in active service. By and with the advice of the senate (two thirds concurring), he makes treaties, and nominates ambassadors, ministers, consuls, and judges.

The federal judiciary consists of the Supreme Court (formed of a chief judge and six associate judges), which sits at Washington, and a District Court in each state, in which one judge sits. The chief justice has 4000 dollars a year, an associate judge 3500, and a district judge from 800 to 2000. The supreme court, deriving its authority from the constitution, is not bound by the proceedings of the legislature farther than they are consistent with that charter. It has, accordingly, set aside several acts of the state legis­latures, and even of Congress itself, on the ground that they contravened an express provision of the constitution, by annulling or impairing the validity of contracts. The laws of the United States are substantially the same with the laws of England, but differently modified in each state by causes springing out of the physical, moral, and political situation of the people.

There is no national church in the United States; each congregation pays its own minister, and each sect regulates its own concerns. Notwithstanding this, wherever the po­pulation is dense, the means of religious instruction are as ample as in any country in Europe. It is computed that there are above 8000 churches, or religious societies, of which about 3000 belong to the Baptists, 2000 to the Me­thodists, 1200 to the Congregationalists, 900 to the Pres­byterians, 600 to the Episcopalians, and a small number to the Catholics, Dutch Lutherans, Universalists, and other sects.

UNIVERSAL, something that is common to many things ; or it is one thing belonging to many or all things. UNIVERSALS. See Metaphysics.

UNIVERSE, a collective name, signifying the whole world ; or the assemblage of heaven and earth, with all that they contain. See Astronomy and Geography.