

ed divisions should be placed the form of government under which live the Indian tribes on our frontiers?

The radical distinction among governments is, between those which are conducted by men deriving their appointment and powers from the people, and who are responsible to them; and those that are conducted by men over whom the people have no direct control. Whether in the latter case the power is exercised by a king, an emperor, or a junto of more or less in number; by the chief of an army, a club of nobles, or a chamber of ministers, may make some differences in the temper of the administration, but will make none in the essential character of the government. The interest of the people is the primary consideration with the first form.—The enjoyment of power supersedes all other considerations with the latter

*Malte Brun*, classifies the American system of government, according to these principles, and pronounces it to be “a purely *national government*,” in contradistinction to the *oligarchical*, under which latter designation, he ranks all forms of government where the people have not the actual sovereign power. He could hardly have selected a term, whereby to designate our general government, that would be more obnoxious to the ears of some of the best of our statesmen, who are startled at the idea of a consolidation of powers, where nothing more was intended than a federation.