

On another occasion, the respective merits of Mr. Van Buren, Mr. Clay, and others, were canvassed, and an animated discussion took place on their relative claims to fill the presidential chair at the next general election. I expressed surprise that, as there were still three years to run of Mr. Tyler's official career, they should be mooting this question already. The whole country had been so recently convulsed by the severe contest between Harrison and Van Buren, in which parties had been so nearly balanced, that it was surely inexpedient that the minds of the people should be again excited and unsettled. I enlarged on the superior advantages of an hereditary monarchy, as preventing the recurrence of such dangerous agitation, and was prepared for a retaliatory attack upon the kingly office, and a eulogy on the superiority of the American constitution. But Americans at home, however loyal and patriotic, and as little disposed to change their form of government for a monarchy as we are to turn republicans, are, nevertheless, by no means optimists. When they travel in England, they acquire a habit of standing on the defensive, from hearing John Bull object to everything in which their laws and institutions may happen to differ from his own. But in the United States, I frequently heard politicians deplore the progress of democracy, argue that the president ought to be elected for six years instead of four, that he should not be re-eligible, that there should be no veto, and contend for other organic changes. In reply to my sally, one of the party, who had previously expressed his fears that General Harrison's death would lead to the democratic party regaining their