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Strength and Weaknesses of Our Republic

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The Struggle and Weaknesses of
Our Republic.

The history of the reasons for
colonizing this country is well known.
After having endured such trials
and persecutions as had been the
colonists lot, they would naturally re-
bel against any form of tyranny, no
matter how slight, on this side of the
water, since they expressed this to be
a horror of rest. They, at first, did
not harbor such a thought as a
separation from the Mother Country,
but at finally became inevitable.

It was necessary, having declared
themselves free, to establish some
form of government. Having had
such severe experiences under the
arbitrary rule of the English commis-
sioners, they decided not to model
the new government after that. It

was deemed safer to have the last
written, so that it could not be chang-
ed, at will, and that it should be
based on certain self-evident truths,
namely - that all men were born
free and equal, and had certain un-
alienable rights, such as liberty and
pursuit of happiness. After some dif-
ficulties and some attempts, our pres-
ent Constitution was finally drawn up
and adopted.

Our Constitution is a written one
and would, therefore, seem unalterable.
In fact, many think that it is near-
ly so in this point - that difficulty to change
it. Power has been given to the people,
that as the nation grows and needs de-
manded, the Constitution could be chang-
ed, but only by amendments. But this
seems more strength, for the laws
which make us such as will not be

needful to change some, and as the na-
ture is made up of so many different
choices and nationalities, and in view
of the law-making department, at times
being of one party and then of another,
if these amendments could be more
easily made, some harm would be made
of the Constitution and some of the ma-
chine would follow.

The Constitution confers certain
powers upon the federal government,
but by so doing does not deprive the
states of power, in many cases the two
concern together, but a state must
yield to supreme law. The powers,
departments and offices, and their
spheres are each separately defined and
explicitly explained in the Constitution,
and what are not are easily implied.
One great bond of strength is that
there is to be a perpetual union and

where a state is once in the union,
there can be no reannexation or re-
vocation except through resolution or
through consent of the state.

Congress, or the law making depart-
ment has the most power. First it
makes the law, then it has the power
to collect taxes, duties or pay debt and
provide for the welfare of the people.
These are essential and necessary for a
prosperous government. It has control
over commerce, naturalization, bankruptcy,
weights and measures. These latter were
placed under one power so as to have
uniformity. Post-office, copyrights and
patents, piracy and felonies on seas,
war or crime under this department.

If the above branches had not
been trusted in a certain body, which
body represents the people, but had
been left to the discretion of the sec-

real state, there would have been
 such varied opinions and laws, that
 discord and strife would be constantly
 arising, and finally a breaking up of
 the Union!

It is not necessary to speak of the
 advantages for the strength of the
 Constitution, in the other departments,
 the executive and judicial. For there
 are as full and extensive in their
 way as Congress. Each was the sub-
 ject of deep thought, by the origina-
 tors, as is apparent upon reading and
 studying it. The Constitution seems
 so broad that every possible need is
 supplied and every question that might
 arise in case of controversy could be
 settled. And it has been so, until
 lately. Our country has advanced
 so rapidly in certain ways, in the
 last few years, that it seems, as

though very good new amendments
must be agitated. Yet the weakness
of the Constitution are so insignifi-
cant beside the bonds of strength,
that they have been overlooked. In
time, measures will have to be resorted
to, in respect to the freedom of the
speech and press; something will
have to be done to suppress the power
in certain religions are assuming, and
the negro question is fast taking an
alarming direction.

In respect to freedom of speech and
press; now that so many foreigners have
come to this country, retaining their
peculiar customs, feeling this a free
country, take advantage of the law.
No means has been provided to punish
them, so they can say and print any-
thing. The anarchists are the outgrowth
of this madness, and if something is

not even done to remedy the evil, serious results must follow. Here again
Protestantism and Catholicism seem
ed to have stepped beyond Constitutional
boundary. It looks though, as if the
former might be more easily subdued,
but the latter forbodes trouble. The
cloud seems thickening. The first
was based on the Christian religion,
there, to be a good citizen, one must
be loyal to the government. But take
a Catholic, if the Pope should com-
mand him to act contrary to the
Federal laws, the citizen would obey
the Pope in preference. This fault
is also interfering in educational
lines as well as in state instruction.
The city of Boston has had a fair
sample in both of these. If laws
had not been passed allowing women
to cast votes in school elections, in

all probability, there would have
been serious trouble. Which may
be one point in favor of normal suf-
frage. Certainly the voting laws are
not stringent enough, but now that
the Australian system is being in-
troduced better things are hoped.

The negro question is an exciting
topic and rather a sensitive one to
many. One that will take time
and discretion must be used to
remedy it. Why are such ignorant
creatures allowed elective franchise
without qualifications, and the
Indians and Chinese forbidden sub-
sidiarization and citizenship enshif? Cer-
tainly the latter two classes promise
to make better and more loyal citi-
zens if they were given the privilege.

Speaking of citizenship the natural-
ization laws seem to need revision