

1
Sep 1st 1841.

Have we a National Character?

The uneariness and jealousy with which foreigners evidently regard the superiority of our institutions, are in nothing more signally manifested than in that feigned contempt which they pretend to entertain for them. They would rob us of all those leading ^{& glorious} traits, which form the constituent ~~parts~~ ^{parts} of a nation's character. And yet, what is it they would have us be? what virtues to assume? what vices to repress? Ah! they would have us be every thing that we are not, and any thing but what we are. Nothing is to their liking. Nothing can be.

"Blow as ye list ye winds,

She sails before the breeze."

They would have us doubtless return to ~~the~~ the state of those old and decaying monarchies of Europe. They would have us put off this noble habit of independence & manly enterprise, and become babes again in feeling, in intelligence and in native energy.

But what is it to possess this national character which they so strenuously persist in denying us? If our opinions is to be regulated by theirs, I fear we can lay but little claim to it. If it be that supercilious haughtiness which characterises the nations

of Great Britain; that overbearing spirit of oppression by which she takes advantage of the weak, & on the principle that "might makes right" tramples their liberties in the dust in violation of the laws of humanity & of God - that policy by which she liberates the foreign slave and keeps in bondage fifteen millions of her own people at home -

Resum & discontinued.