

duced the wide divergence. It is the town-meeting that constitutes the fundamental and essential diversity between the towns of New England and the counties or parishes of the South. And the town-meeting was the outgrowth of the Puritans' religious ideas and church organization. The independent control of ecclesiastical affairs by the entire congregation,—in other words, democracy in the church,—led naturally to democracy in political institutions. The town grew up about church and school as a nucleus. The Southern gentleman prided himself on his broad acres, his numerous slaves, his fast horses, and fleet hounds; but the church and school were the centers of New England life. Thus the extremely popularized, local governments of New England were in part the result of the Puritan character; but also preserved and developed the religious and political tendencies of the Puritans, and in this way have formed a controlling force in our history that can hardly be overrated.

The third type of local government, the New York plan, combines the features of the systems existing in Massachusetts and Virginia. Control of local matters is divided between county and town. The town-meeting is retained; and, in so far, the plan resembles that of Massachusetts; but the county affairs are managed by a board consisting of one supervisor from each town; and in this the Virginia system is followed. Probably the origin of this mixed system is to be found chiefly in the character of the early colonists. It was the Dutch control that gave the bent to local government in New York, as the Puritan influence did in Massachusetts. The system of patroonships among the Dutch would have made any smaller division than the county impracticable. But the later English settlement, and the westerly migration from Massachusetts, counteracted the tendency which New York had shown toward the Virginia system, and finally developed local institutions of a mixed character.

The present Wisconsin was a part of Illinois before the admission of that territory into the Union. Illinois had long been a part of Virginia, whose claim was strengthened by the conquest of the territory by George Rogers Clark,