The error . . . seems to owe its rise and
prevalence chiefly to the confounding of a
republic with a democracy. . . . A democracy . . .
will be confined to a small spot. A republic
may be extended over a large region.

JAMES MADISON

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The cuneiform inscription that serves as the design motif for our
endpapers is the earliest known written appearance of the word
"freedom" (ama-gi), or liberty. It is taken from a clay document written
about 2300 B.C. in the Sumerian city-state of Lagash.

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