

with a cabinet, thus composed, and to what ends it is advancing. To answer this question, it is necessary to look into the nature and relations of things. Here the true criterions of judgment are to be found. Professions are, always, plausible. Why, sir, Bonaparte, himself, is the very milk of human kindness; he is the greatest lover of his species in the world; he would not hurt a sparrow, if you take his own account of the matter. What, then, do nature, and the relations of things teach? They teach this, that the great hazard, in a government where the chief Magistracy is elective, is from the *local ambition of states, and the personal ambition of individuals*. It is no reflection upon any state, to say, it is ambitious. According to their opportunities and temptations, all states are ambitious. This quality is as much predicable of states, as of individuals. Indeed state ambition has its root in the same passions of human nature, and derives its strength from the same nutriment, as personal ambition. All history shows, that such passions always exist among states, combined in confederacies. To deny it, is to deceive ourselves. It has existed, it does exist, and always must exist. In our political relations, as in our personal, we then walk most safely, when we walk with reference to the actual existence of things; admit the weaknesses, and do not hide from ourselves the dangers, to which our nature is exposed. Whatever is true, let us confess. Nations, as well as individuals, are only safe, in proportion as they attain *self-knowledge*, and regulate their conduct by it.

What fact, upon this point, does our own experience present? It presents this striking one;—that, taking the years, for which the Presidential chair is already filled, into the account, *out of twenty eight years, since our constitution was established, the single state of Virginia has furnished the President for twenty four years*. And, farther, it is now as distinctly known, and familiarly talked about, in this city and vicinity, who is the destined successor of the present President, after the expiration of his ensuing term, and known, that he, too, is to be a Virginian, as it was known and familiarly talked about, during the Presidency of Mr. Jefferson, that the present President was to be his successor. And the former was, and the latter is, a subject of as much notoriety, and, to human appearance, of as much certainty too, as who will be the successor to the British crown, is a matter of notoriety in that country. To secure this succession and keep it in the destined line, has been, is; and will continue to be, the main object of the policy of these men. *This is the point, on which the projects of the cabinet for the three years past have been brought to bear,—that James the first should be made to continue four years longer. And this is the point, on which the projects of the cabinet will be brought to bear for the three years to come,—that James the second shall be made to succeed, according to the fundamental rescripts of the Monticellian dynasty.*