

chosen in strict conformity with the terms of the social compact?

If you flatter yourself with any such pleasing delusions, awake, and shake off the mighty error. Rely upon it, that those who may make the sacrilegious attempt will, with their deluded followers, suffer condign punishment as traitors.

The United States have for a considerable time past exhibited a spectacle of the most extraordinary kind, and almost unique in the history of the world.

Our form of government has probably but one material defect. It wants a due degree of energy, particularly pending war. If it were free from this, it might last as long as the Roman government.

This defect must be a subject of deep and serious regret to all good men, not merely our cotemporaries or countrymen, but to those in future times and distant countries, who may feel an interest in the happiness of their fellow men. In perusing history, we lament the errors of our ancestors—ours will be a subject of lamentation to our posterity.

Taking into consideration this serious defect in the frame of our government, it is the duty of all good citizens to uphold and support it. But all considerations of duty apart, mere selfishness ought to prompt all men who have any interest in the welfare of the country, who have any thing to lose by convulsions, and tumults, and confusion, and anarchy, to cling to and uphold the government, whereby they are protected in the enjoyment of all the blessings of life.

But it is awful to relate, and is without precedent, that a large proportion of the wealthiest men in the community have been as sedulously employed in tearing down the pillars of the government—in throwing every obstacle, and difficulty, and embarrassment in the way of its administrators, as if it were a government equally oppressive with that of Algiers or Turkey, or as if they could derive advantage from anarchy. Should they be cursed with final success in their endeavours, they and their posterity will mourn the consequences.

The national vessel is on rocks and quicksands, and in danger of shipwreck. There is, moreover, a larger and more formidable vessel preparing all possible means for her destruction. Yet, instead of efforts to extricate her, the

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