

Some advise this course, and even more, to facilitate all the measures demanded by the executive, because they hope that the result—whether peace or war—will be advantageous to their own party, and fatal to the party of the President; others, because they suppose that it is the course most likely to moderate the action of the government, and to secure eventually the adoption of peaceful measures. The motives of the first of these two classes are too selfish, unmanly, unpatriotic to deserve any further notice. It is not so with the latter. They mean well, whatever may be thought of their wisdom. They fear the effect of excitement on this question. Some of them are even apprehensive that if the commercial and intelligent classes openly and firmly oppose the policy of the administration, it will stimulate the friends of the executive to plunge the country into war in order to injure the commercial class and the interests of the Atlantic States in general. Such fears as these are insinuated by some of the editors and correspondents of our public papers. These insinuations I believe to be grossly slanderous. Though I have little confidence in the wisdom of our rulers, I do not entertain such notions of their morality and patriotism and regard for their fellow-citizens, as these insinuations imply. Nor do I believe any thing so bad as this of any large portion of the western supporters of the President. If it were come to this, that a party, under the influence of such malignant feelings against a portion of their fellow-citizens, strong enough to carry measures so important in our public councils, existed in the country, then verily might we despair of the republic. There may be a few such men in the country; but if ever, unfortunately, they should become the majority, we shall rapidly sink to the level of our sister republics south of us on this continent, or even to a lower deep—to the level of the French Republic during the Reign of Terror.

Again—many of both political parties who are sincerely desirous that peace may be maintained, stand in this kind of position. They are sorry that the administration have, by claiming the whole territory west of the Rocky Mountains, endangered the issue of the negotiation; but yet, since the step has been taken, they think it best to offer no open resistance. This course some follow through regard for their party, some through patriotism, perhaps more through the hope that, by setting up a large claim, the President may succeed in obtaining a better bargain from the British government. With none of these classes can I exactly agree. The party spirit