

had occurred, the question of forming such a new Convention, and the appointment of the delegates, must have gone into the hands of new assemblies; because all the Legislatures of the New England states would have been dissolved, and there would have been new elections, before the time proposed for the second convention. And, lastly, it is matter of public notoriety that the report of this convention produced the effect of assuaging the public sensibility, and operated to repress the vague and ardent expectations entertained by many of our citizens, of immediate and effectual relief, from the evils of their condition.

We pass over the elaborate exposition of constitutional law in the President's letter having no call, nor any inclination at this time to controvert its leading principles. Neither do we comment upon, though we perceive and feel, the unjust, and we must be excused for saying, insidious mode in which he has grouped together distant and disconnected occurrences, which happened in his absence from the country, for the purpose of producing, by their collocation, a glaring and sinister effect upon the federal party. They were all of a public nature. The arguments concerning their merit or demerit have been exhausted; and time, and the good sense of an intelligent people, will place them ultimately in their true light, even though Mr Adams should continue to throw obstacles in the way to this harmonious reaction of public opinion.

It has been a source of wonder and perplexity to many in our community, to observe the immense difference in the standards by which public opinion has been led to measure the same kind of proceedings, when adopted in different States. No pretence is urged that any actual resistance to the laws, or forcible violation of the constitutional compact, has ever happened in Massachusetts. Constitutional questions have arisen here as well as in other States. It is surprising and consolatory that the number has not been greater, and that the termination of them has not been less amicable. To the discussion of some of them great excitement was unavoidably incident; but in comparing cases with causes and effects, the impartial observer will perceive nothing to authorize any disparagement of *this State*, to the advantage of the pretensions of other members of the confederacy.

On this subject we disclaim the purpose of instituting invidious comparisons; but every one knows that Massachusetts has not been alone in complaints and remonstrances against the acts of the national government. Nothing can be found on the records of her legislative proceedings, surpassing the tone of resolutions adopted in other States in reprobation of the alien and sedition laws. In one State opposition to the execution of a treaty, in others to the laws instituting the bank, has sounded the note of preparation for resistance in more impassioned strains than were ever adopted here. And at this moment, claims of State rights, and protests against the measures of the national government, in