

No part of the executive authority of the state ought ever to be exercised by the people at large :

executive authority. Now this is a branch of government for which the people are singularly unfit. They cannot, with propriety and safety to the state, exercise any branch of government but that of electing their representatives. But to *that* they are fully competent. For, though few men have opportunities of knowing others well enough to take an exact measure of their talents and qualifications for publick business, yet every man is able to distinguish in a general manner whether the person he is inclined to vote for as his representative, is, or is not, a man of better abilities than the greater part of the other candidates for the same honour. And that is all the knowledge and skill that is required for the business of electing a proper representative.

Nor even by the body of their representatives.

XXIX. And it may further be observed, that, not only the people at large, but even the body of representatives chosen by them, is unfit for the exercise of the executive authority of the state. And therefore they ought not to be invested with it, but should be authorized only to make laws, and to super-intend the execution