

I claim but one merit in this production, and that is by no means inconsiderable. It is, that with a perfect knowledge of the furious, remorseless, never-dying, and cut-throat hostility, with which Faction in all ages has persecuted those who have dared oppose her—and perfectly satisfied, that with us she is as implacable, as malignant, and as inexorable a monster as she has ever been, I have dared, nevertheless, to state the truth, regardless of the consequences. I was, it is true, considerably reluctant. I should have preferred by far, for the remainder of my life, steering clear of the quick-sands of politics. None of the questions that have heretofore divided parties in this country could have induced me to venture upon the tempestuous ocean. But at a crisis like the present, neutrality would be guilt. The question now is between the friends of social order, and jacobins, who are endeavouring to destroy the whole fabric of government, with the slender chance of building it up again—between peace and harmony on one side, and civil war and anarchy on the other. A lamentable delusion prevails. The community shut their eyes against the truth on the subject. But this is the real state of the case, or I am as grossly deceived as ever was human being. And unless some of our influential men exert themselves to allay the storm, a few short months will exchange doubt into awful and dreadful certainty.

While I was deliberating about the sacrifice which such a publication as this requires, one serious and affecting consideration removed my doubts, and decided my conduct. Seeing thousands of the flower of our population—to whom the spring of life just opens with all its joys, and pleasures, and enchantments—prepared in the tented field to risk, and if necessary, sacrifice their lives, for their country's welfare; I thought it would be baseness in me, whose sun has long passed the meridian, and on whom the attractions of life have ceased to operate with their early fascinations, to have declined any risk that might arise from the effort to ward off the parricidal stroke aimed at a country to which I owe such heavy obligations. With this view of the subject I could not decide otherwise than I have done.

On the execution of the work it behoves me to offer a few remarks. I know it is very considerably imperfect. It is hardly possible to prepare any book under greater disadvantages than have attended the Olive Branch. A large