

vicinity, and the whole body were equally deaf to Northern and Southern overtures. They afforded thus a desirable and safe asylum to all, who preferred the antient state of affairs to any innovation ; and though several, entertaining opinions different from those of the majority, quitted their territory, the republican immigrants considerably exceeded them in number. These immigrants consisted of persons of every condition, and their motion was continually westward, for the western country increased greatly in value and importance.

Under such a state of things the antient confederation of the colonies of New England was brought forcibly to view. The hostility manifested by Virginians to commerce, in which consisted the life of the North-eastern States ; their hostility also to England and the new Viceroyalty of the North, with both of which the New Englanders were necessitated to maintain a close connexion, and still further, their devotedness to the views of France, to which the men of the north could never brook a subserviency, all joined to sever the bonds of connexion, and to prepare the way for a new and distinct government.

I will not enter into a detail of the debates of that eventful period. I look on all the scenes I have related with horror ; and you, my dear Son, must esteem it the strongest proof I can give you of the sincerest love, that I sit down to a narration which awakens unheeded and ineffectual regrets, and will ever be the theme of mortification and sorrow.