

they open their ears to the voice of reason, and are willing to meet each other half way. A maxim, sound in private affairs, is equally unsound in public life. While a violent federalist believes all the evils of the present state of things have arisen from the guilt of the administration, nothing less will satisfy him than hurling Mr. Madison from the seat of government, and sending him to Elba. While, on the other hand, a violent democrat persuades himself that all our evils have arisen from the difficulties and embarrassments constantly and steadily thrown in the way of the administration by the federalists, he is utterly averse to any compromise. Each looks down upon the other with scorn and hatred, as the Pharisee in the gospel upon the Publican. I have endeavoured to prove, and I believe I have fully proved, that each party has a heavy debt of error, and folly, and guilt, to answer for to their injured country, and to posterity—and, as I have stated in the body of this work, that mutual forgiveness is no more than an act of justice—and can lay no claim to the character of liberality on either side.

But even supposing for a moment—what probably hardly ever occurred, since the world was formed—that the error is all on one side, is it less insane for the other to increase the difficulty of extrication—to refuse its aid—to embarrass those who have the management of our affairs? My house is on fire. Instead of calling for aid—or providing fire-engines—or endeavouring to smother the flames—I institute an inquiry how it took fire—whether by accident or design—and if by design, who was the incendiary; and further undertake to punish him for his wickedness! a most wise and wonderful procedure—and just on a level with the wisdom, and patriotism, and public spirit of those sapient members of Congress, who spend days in making long speeches, every idea whereof has been a hundred, perhaps a thousand times repeated in the newspapers, upon the causes of the war, and the errors of its management, instead of meeting the pressing and imperious necessity of the emergency.