

our greatest dangers would arise from the usurpations of the state governments, some of which are disposed to jeopardize the general government. Unfortunately they were too successful. Their endeavours produced a constitution, which, however admirably calculated for a period of peace, has been found incompetent in war to call forth, at once and decisively, the energies of the nation, and which has been repeatedly bearded by the state governments. Had the real federalists in the convention succeeded, and made the government somewhat more energetic—endowed it with a small degree more of power—it might endure for centuries. What fate at present awaits it, is not in human wisdom to foresee. I fervently pray, with the celebrated father Paul, *esto perpetua*.

This error of the *democratic party* arose from a want of due regard to the history of republics, and from a deep study of those political writers who had written under monarchical governments, and whose views were wholly directed to guard against the dangers flowing from the overweening regal power, especially when in the hands of men of powerful talents, and great ambition. The theories whence they derived their views of government were splendid and sublime—the productions of men of great public spirit, and regard for the public welfare and happiness—and had they been duly tempered by maxims drawn from experience, would have been of inestimable value.

#### *Establishment of a small Navy.*

The steady and factious opposition made by the democratic party to the establishment of a small navy, adequate at least to the protection of our own coasts, has been proved by the event to have been most wretched and miserable policy. It arose partly from the spirit of hostility towards the party in power, and partly from a sordid and contemptible spirit of economy, which has

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