

mine to have influence any farther, than the reasons, upon which they are founded, justify. They are public reasons, arising from undeniable facts. The nation will judge for itself.

The men who now, and who, for these twelve years past, have, to the misfortune of this country, guided its councils, and directed its destinies, came into power on a tide, which was raised and supported by elements, constituted of British prejudices, and British antipathies. The parties, which grew up in this nation, took their origin and form at the time of the adoption of the treaty, negotiated by Mr Jay, in 1794. The opposition of that day, of which the men now in power were the leaders, availed themselves, very dexterously, of the relics of that hatred towards the British name, which remained after the revolutionary war. By perpetually blowing upon the embers of the antient passions, they excited a flame in the nation, and by systematically directing it against the honorable men, who at that time conducted its affairs, the strength and influence of those men were impaired. The embarrassments with France, which succeeded, in 1798 and 1799, were turned to the same account. Unfortunately those, who then conducted public affairs, attended less to the appearances of things, than to their natures; and considered more what was due to their country, than was prudent in the state of the prejudices and jealousies of the people; thus artfully excited against them. They went on, in the course they deemed right, regardless of personal consequences, and blind to the evidences of discontent, which surrounded them. The consequences are well known. The supreme power, in these United States, passed into the hands which now possess it, in which it has been continued down to the present time. This transfer of power was effected, undeniably, principally on the very ground of these prejudices and antipathies, which existed in the nation against Great Britain, and which had been artfully fomented by the men now in power, and their adherents, and directed against their predecessors. These prejudices and passions constitute the main pillar of the power of these men. In my opinion, they never will permit it to be wholly taken away from them. They never will permit the people of this country to look at them and their political opponents, free of that jaundice, with which they have carefully imbued the vision of their own partizans. They never will consent to be weighed, in a balance of mere merits, but will always take care to keep in reserve some portion of these British antipathies, to throw as a make-weight into the opposite scale, whenever they find their own sinking. To continue, multiply, strengthen and extend, these props of their power, has been and still is the object of the daily study, and the nightly vigils of our American cabinet. For this, the British treaty was permitted to expire, by its own limitation; notwithstanding the state of things, which the treaty of Amiens had produced in Europe, was so little like permanent peace, that the occurrence of the fact, on which the force of that limitation depended, might easily have been questioned, with but little violence to the terms, and in per-