

views inimical to the continuance of the union. Massachusetts was alert and decided in promoting the old and new confederations ; we remember also that under a wise Administration, the present Constitution was prolific in every species of prosperity ; we know that the affinities of interest which ought to unite us are natural, and predominate over the artificial collisions which tend to detach from each other the members of the great family. Nor are our intelligent citizens unmindful of the dangers, dissensions and final insignificance of the component parts, which too often attend the dissolution of confederated States. But on the other hand, we regard the union as only *one of the objects* of the Constitution. The others as expressed in the instrument, are to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity. So long as the union can be made the instrument of these other constitutional objects, it will deserve the support of all the friends of their country. But it is for these only that it possesses a value in our esteem.— Without them it would prove a name and not a charm, and like other constitutional provisions, a fair subject of amendment. It was not betraying an indifference to the union, to protest against measures as weak and mischievous, which their authors afterwards abandoned as mischievous and weak. We have asked for an efficient protection to commerce, or that commerce should be permitted to take care of itself. Neither has been granted. The portion of the union which lives by commerce is plunged into war, by those who exult in their means of living without it, claiming however to be its best friends, and most competent to its regulation. Thousands deprived of the means of happiness which endear either government or country, remonstrate and complain, and are branded as Malcontents, by those who dispense seizures, forfeitures, penalties

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