

of annoyance, hovers on our coasts, and by his formidable navy, is enabled to inflict on us deep and lasting injury. And what is pregnant with more terror by far, instead of aiding to extricate us from this perilous situation, the opportunity of a season of difficulty and danger is seized on to dissolve the union, to raise up hostile and jarring confederacies, to destroy the hopes mankind have formed of our noble governmental experiment.

To continue disputing about the minor points that have divided the parties heretofore, would be madness. How superlative would be the folly and absurdity of two men, fighting about the interior decorations and arrangements of an edifice, and regardless of the operations of two others, one of whom was undermining and preparing to blow it up in the air, and the other providing a torch to set it on fire? A strait jacket would be too slender a restraint for them. Such is the folly and madness of those democrats and federalists, who continue their warfare about the mode of administering the constitution, or the persons by whom it shall be administered, at a time when the constitution itself is in danger of being destroyed root and branch.



The plan of this work may require some short explanation. I believe the country to be in imminent danger of a convulsion, whereof the human mind cannot calculate the consequences. The nation is divided into two hostile parties, whose animosity towards each other is daily increased by inflammatory publications. Each charges the other with the guilt of having produced the present alarming state of affairs. In private life, when two individuals quarrel, and each believes the other wholly wrong, a reconciliation is hardly practicable. But when they can be convinced that the errors are mutual—as is almost universally the case—