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condition that the Americans should have a free commerce with Spain. Virginia and Maryland, though they had more to fear from this emigration than the other states, were opposed to this proposition, as derogatory to the honour of the United States; and a majority of congress adopted the sentiment.

A degree of diffidence, which the inhabitants of the west have shewn relative to the secret designs of congress, has induced many people to believe, that the union would not exist a long time between the old and new states; and this probability of a rupture, they say, is strengthened by some endeavours of the English in Canada, to attach the western settlers to the English government.

But a number of reasons determine me to believe, that the present union will for ever subsist. A great part of the property of the western land belongs to the people of the east; the unceasing emigrations serve perpetually to strengthen their connections; and as it is for the interest both of the east and west, to open an extensive commerce with South America, and to overleap the Mississippi; they must, and will, remain united for the accomplishment of this object.

The western inhabitants are convinced that this navigation cannot remain a long time closed. They are determined to open it by good will, or by force; and it would not be in the power of congress to moderate their ardour. Men, who are masters of the Ohio and the Mississippi, cannot conceive that the insolence of a handful of Spaniards can think of shutting rivers and seas against a hundred thousand free Americans. The slightest quarrel will be sufficient to throw them