

at this early period of our history, be almost compelled to yield the argument in favor of our republican form, even on the score of experience. But unhappily Mr. Jefferson's ambition prompted him to aspire to the chief Magistracy, with more regard to the efficiency of the measures, necessary for the attainment of his object, than delicacy with respect to the morality of those measures, or the awful effect they were to have on our political institutions, and the public mind.

In comparison with the many distinguished characters whose important services at that period, claimed the reward of national gratitude, Mr. Jefferson stood but a slender chance. His revolutionary services were little more than votive and nominal. His hostility to the oppressive measures of the parent state which produced the rupture, was rather the effect of hatred, than the result of principle. His *courage* and *firminess* were purely of the *theoretical* cast, as the hour of trial abundantly proved.*

He came into office, therefore with his head full of projects and his heart of promises. For it was plain that the less he had already done, the more he was bound to offer. The more brilliant the career of his predecessors, so much the higher must rise his professions of attachment to the public welfare. And in this part of his duty public expectation was not disappointed. He had no sooner entered on the duties of his office, than he began to be rapidly delivered of his numerous *kind wishes* for the general good. Economy was his favorite measure; and this he carried to such a ludicrous extent that the "ears even of the groundlings"

* This alludes to his well known flight to Carter's mountain.