

well, except in very corrupt states of society. And little more is necessary to produce harmony between them, than to understand each other correctly. But they are kept in hostility by the intrigues and management of demagogues, whose influence and consequence depend on fomenting discord, and who would sink into insignificance in times of tranquility. Mankind hate each other, not for real existing differences, but for phantoms, the production of heated imaginations. Experience has frequently evinced that the very plans of policy which parties out of power have reprobated and denounced as pernicious, they have pursued themselves as soon as they had vanquished their opponents, and seized on their places. And I believe every man of reflection will acknowledge that if the federalists had retained the administration in their hands, they would have advocated the rights of their country as firmly as their successors have done, and would probably have adopted measures to resist the pretensions of England, similar to those for which they have so strenuously, though not very honorably or consistently opposed the present administration.

In truth, this is not mere supposition. It is historical fact. It will be seen in the sequel of this work, that the federalists took as high ground on the subject of impressment, and as firmly and patriotically resisted the unjust pretensions of England in that respect, as Mr. Jefferson or Mr. Madison has done ; although the resistance of the two latter presidents has been among the strongest accusations alleged against them by their political adversaries. It is impossible to reflect on these topics without sighing over human weakness and folly. Federalism has in these transactions suffered a stain never to be effaced.

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