

that mutual dependence might beget and nurture mutual charity. But it tended rather to imbitter domestic and civil life. Party rancour prevailed soon after the formation of a permanent general government. And I was accustomed to think that they, who were denominated Federalists, might thank themselves for the rage of its venom. For when they had power, their opponents were absolutely trampled upon. Nothing was too base to impute to them. Hence their increase of numbers and influence; and, as mankind naturally favour a persecuted body, hence they became the dominant party. But as their political predecessors generally possessed the wealth of the nation, there arose a struggle between the aristocracy of money and the aristocracy of office, in which each party was equally tenacious of its rights. Could there have been an aristocracy of honour, to check and balance these two parties, possibly the form of government might have subsisted much longer.

Men love distinction; and distinction they will obtain, though in some instances it be by the hardihood of villainy. Few of the nations of the earth have exhibited a greater love of it, than the Americans; though among few could it ever be less indulged with prudence. This circumstance, however, tended but to smother, not to extinguish the passion. Rank and titles were eagerly courted, and pertinaciously kept, from the corporal to the captain-general, and from the tide-waiter to the President. I am, notwithstanding contrary appearances, inclined still to think, that the love of titular distinctions was prevalent among the New Englanders