

These men have arms in their hands—the same arms with which they proved victorious over their savage neighbours. They have ample means of subsistence—No market for those means—and they have men disposed to lead them on to avenge their wrongs. Are you certain that they will wait the end of negotiation? When they hear that nothing has been done for their immediate relief, they will probably take their resolution and act. Indeed from all that we have heard, there is great reason to suppose that they will, or, perhaps, that they may have already acted—They know the nature of the obstruction—They know the weakness of the country. They are sure of present success—and they have a bold river to bear them forward to the place of action. They only want a leader to conduct them, and it would be strange, if with such means, and such spirit, a leader should not soon present himself.

Suppose they do go—That they do chase away the present wrong-doers—That you give them no support—and, that in the end they are overpowered and defeated by a stronger foe than the present feeble possessors. They will make the best compromise they can with the power commanding the mouth of the river, who in effect has thereby the command of their fortunes. Will such a bargain be of light or trivial moment to the Atlantic States? Bonaparté will then say to you, My French West-India colonies, and those of my allies, can be supplied from my colony of Louisiana, with flour, beef, pork, lumber and every necessary. These articles can be carried by my own ships, navigated by my own sailors. If you on the Atlantic coast wish to trade with my colonies in these articles, you must pay fifteen or twenty per cent. of an impost; we want no further supplies from you, and revenue to France

must be the condition of all future intercourse. What say you to this? It will be vain to address your western brethren, and complain that your revenue dwindles; your commerce is ruined, your condition desperate. They will reply—you came not to our assistance at the only moment you could have served us—That you then balanced between sordid interest and duty—That you suffered them to be born down and subdued at a time when, for a trifle, you could have secured the Mississippi.—Now their interest must be consulted, and it forbids any assistance to you when following in the same train of ruin which overwhelmed them.

If the evil does not immediately proceed the full length of absolute disunion, yet the strength, the unity of exertion, the union of interest will be gone, we are no more one people, and representatives from that portion of our country, in our public councils will partake of the spirit, and breathe the sentiments of a distinct nation. They will rob you of your public lands—They will not submit to taxes—They will form a girdle round the southern States which may be denominated a foreign yoke and render that whole country very precarious as to its peace and present connexions. Indeed, every aspect of such a state of things is gloomy and alarming to men who take the trouble of reflecting upon it. But, Sir, said Mr. R. I have heard it suggested that there is another mode of getting rid of this crisis in our affairs. If we remain perfectly quiet and passive, shew no symptoms of uneasiness and discontent—If we give no offence to the new and probable masters of the Mississippi—May be they will sell!!! To me it is utterly incredible that such an effect would flow from such a conduct. They might probably sell if they found us armed, in possession and resolved to maintain it