

is still infinitely better than could have been expected from persons of their peculiar religious belief.

It is in the annals of these two first Republics of New England that we must trace the origin and history of almost every institution now existing in the United States, the rise and progress of American opinions of federal union with the neighbouring sovereignties, of a separate jurisdiction, and of a central congress. At the period of the Revolution, much doubtless was added by the great statesmen of the day, beyond what existed in the olden time, but those additions were less conspicuous for their novelty and originality (for there was little new in them) than the wonderful skill exhibited in their adaptation to the then existing state of things, so as to preserve harmony and unity of action.

To ascribe to Washington, Franklin, Jefferson or Adams and their contemporaries the whole merit of the invention and creation of that wonderful republic, would be to rob the early planters of Massachusetts of their well-earned laurels. There are enough for both, let us appropriate them to their respective owners; and in so doing let us not forget to mention those circumstances, and they were many and most important, which were purely accidental, the mere offspring of chance, a work of the hand of Providence.