

In later times there was a peculiar sympathy between the inhabitants of New England and New York, grounded on commercial connexions. The grand mart for a great portion of the produce of the western lands of New England was the flourishing city of New York. Hence that State was ranked with the old confederation of the East in those alarming calculations of population, wealth, military strength and general resources, which, under the third President, were very imprudently and rashly brought forward by individuals, who were no friends, it is true, to Virginian politics. I say imprudently and rashly, because the question of separation ought never to have been debated. Behold now the consequences ! To utter the idea should, from the first, have been deemed implicit treason ; and the man, who broached the plan of it, should have been held up, as an enemy to his country, whether he were a Virginian or New Englander. On that question depended the fate of the country. And subsequent events have proved that, the commencement of its consideration was the era of our calamities.

In the political contests and discussions of that day the disputants seemed to have forgotten, that the government was decidedly and legally a creation of the majority, and that of course it was the duty of a minority to submit with cheerful loyalty. Those too, who were in power, should have used that power with a Christian moderation. But was the want of this quality the fault of Americans, as such ? It was human nature ; and therefore the framers of our constitutions wisely provided the means of a change of administrators.