

unfrequently private malice disguised itself under the cloak of public spirit, to sate its rage. Let us ponder well on those circumstances.

To apply a remedy to any evil, moral or physical, it is indispensably necessary to explore its nature—to ascertain its causes—and to trace their consequences. Any other procedure is the result of error and folly, and pregnant with defeat and disappointment.

With this view I respectfully solicit the public attention. I shall take a rapid, retrospective glance at the follies and guilt, which the factious and discordant state of our country has generated. As far as in my power I have divested myself of any party bias, and shall treat the subject as if it belonged to another age or nation. Whatever errors I may fall into, shall not arise from sinister intention—they shall be chargeable to inadvertence and human imperfection. And on my freedom from partiality, I feel the more reliance, from my unalterable conviction, that both the hostile parties that divide this country, and who regard each other with so much hatred and jealousy, have largely contributed towards the misfortunes that have befallen us—the melancholy change that has taken place in our situation—and the dangers that threaten us. For it is impossible that a candid mind can review the scenes through which we have passed for some years, without a thorough conviction, that each has been guilty of most egregious errors, and follies, and occasionally of something worse than either; and that whenever the interests of the nation and the interests of the party came in collision, the former were too frequently sacrificed* by both federalists and democrats to the latter. No man who has any public spirit, can take a review of our history without feeling the deepest regret at the extent of the mischief this miserable system of conduct has produced. It has defeated many of the noblest plans that the wisdom of the country has ever devised. I may be wrong in my calcu-

* This is one of the most lamentable and humiliating facts in our history.