

A
LOYAL SUBJECT'S
T H O U G H T S
ON AN
U N I O N,
BETWEEN
GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND.

DUBLIN:

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SOME THOUGHTS, &c.

It is astonishing to perceive the avidity with which the United Irishmen, and their satellites in this kingdom, have swallowed down the bait recently thrown out, of a proposed Union between Great Britain and Ireland; though this scheme is carried in to effect, would according to my idea, prove the death-warrant for all the villainous designs which are now in embryo, or might hereafter as they hope, be brought to maturity. These factious sanguinary wretches, having been effectually disappointed in their ambitious republican pro-

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jects, hitherto appear to enjoy a gratification so immense, that they have not sufficient command over themselves to conceal it, in contemplating the more than probable embarrassments, which administration may be doomed to contend with, in bringing forward a measure of such confessed magnitude; and these restrained, though not completely suppressed, knaves experience the most unbounded pleasure, in concluding that the gentlemen of landed property in this country, must necessarily give a decided opposition to a plan, which is conceived to be pregnant with essential injury to them: this induces their malevolent disposition to suppose, that their present weakened party will be considerably strengthened by the accession of men whose estates must labour under a large annual burden, in contributing to the exigencies of the State, and upon whom of course, they reckon as malecontents, naturally inclined to attach themselves to the cause of freedom, as they treache-

rously denominate it, and to resist the ruinous intentions of selfish rulers; or that at any rate, every wealthy individual among us, who sets his face against the levelling predatory principles which were attempted to be enforced in this Island, upon the diabolical model of France, would be now severely and deservedly punished, for his obstinacy in contemning the glorious fraternization, which was offered for his acceptance.

Did it occur to me that an avowal of my name could, even probably, serve any good purpose, I would not hesitate a moment to proclaim it, as no motive of personal fear deters me from doing so; but I am convinced that such a discovery, would not be productive of any useful consequences, even presuming it to proceed from the greatest Peer in the kingdom, because people always will and ought to think for themselves, especially upon points wherein they happen to be themselves deeply concerned, suffice it there-

fore to remark, that I am an Hibernian by birth and residence, that I enjoy a competency, with which I am contented—that I am a warm admirer of our present Constitution in Church and State—that I unfeignedly wish for the welfare of the place of my nativity—that I am a zealous advocate for subordination, and earnestly desire to see the establishment of ranks in society perpetuated—that I am insuperably averse to the horrors of a revolution, and the unjust or violent acquisition of any thing belonging to a fellow-creature—that I am not a placeman, pensioner, or expectant in any respect—that I never solicited or received any civil, military or ecclesiastical favor from Government—that I will not allow my *loyalty* to be inferior to that of our high-crested Lord Chancellor himself; nor though I have not obtained any reward for attaching me to the happiness of this country, do I esteem it a proof of intolerable pride to assert, that my *patriotism* is more

pure and disinterested than that of Henry Grattan, the real deceiver, though falsely denominated Saviour of Ireland, on whom such enormous sums were profusely bestowed—that I spurn with indignation, at the alledged idea of my being gratified with the bow of approbation from any man, howsoever elevated his station may be, whose principles and conduct my conscience suggested to me, that I should treat with abhorrence and contempt, and that as I am not a Candidate for fame or emolument, and despise the mean arts of adulation, I trust my remaining *incog*, will remove from me every imputation of being swayed by servile or mercenary motives.

About forty-five years ago the project of an Union was seriously debated; nor do I see any better reason for disputing about it at this day, than presented itself in every year successively since that period; for as harpooners, in order to di-

vent the wounded Whale, from making
 a destructive attack upon their boats, are
 said to fling an empty cask into the sea,
 on which he may vent his fury; may not
 this object be glanced at, for the purpose
 of founding the depth of our professed Loy-
 alty, amidst the distractions which still
 prevail amongst us, and at the close of
 a rebellion almost unexampled, in point of
 base ingratitude and exterminating barba-
 rity? Should this notion, nevertheless be
 erroneous, I am clearly of opinion that had
 the business under consideration, been final-
 ly adjusted at the time to which I allude,
 the commercial prosperity of this nation
 would have more than equalled that of
 Scotland, and the consolidated connexion
 of the Empire, would have liberated us
 from numberless subsequent bones of con-
 tention in politics, which served no other
 end than disturbing our peace, and detach-
 ing us from really useful and honourable
 pursuits. And should the talked-of Union,
 be upon cool and mature deliberation, judged

expedient, I would readily submit to such a regulation, though attended with a reduction of my annual income; because I am abundantly convinced that without the interposition of the British Navy, our comparative national imbecility, and intestine divisions, would render us an easy prey to France; and then farewell to comfort, affluence and personal security for ever!

A change in circumstances requires a corresponding alteration in the disposal, and arrangement of affairs. The repeal of our penal laws, may have been literally deemed a measure of prudence and justice; and yet the original enforcement of them, was thought to be indispensably requisite for the preservation of the Protestant Religion: the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, may excite alarms in the breasts of those who find their glorious schemes frustrated by such a procedure; but methinks every sincere supporter of good order, must approve of any ordinance which conduces to the suppression

of licentiousness, and the establishment of general tranquillity. And they who raise such a furious outcry against an Union, and affirm it to be a gross infringement of our Constitution, may as reasonably alledge that what we ought not to do to-day, would be improper for to-morrow also: and that the Chalking Act was superfluous, because there were other pre-existing laws, against riots and violent assaults, though making no provision for this particular outrage.

Many of us must still recollect how Thurot, with a few small frigates under his command, landed a body of French Troops upon this Island, and after exciting a serious alarm throughout the province of Ulster at least, would have carried off his plunder, with impunity, had he not been intercepted at sea by Commodore Elliot, and compelled to surrender to the superiority of British valour. And a few weeks ago, another French squadron of lawless robbers and plunderers, would in the course of half a dozen of hours; have effected a descent up-

on this country, and by the assistance of still more savage domestic traitors, have deluged it at this moment in blood, and cut out for us vastly more dreadful work than arguing about an Union, had not their plans of murder and rapine been providentially disconcerted by the critically opportune interference of the brave and active Sir John Warren. These instances serve to demonstrate that, notwithstanding all the noise we make about our boasted-of Independence, we are not capable of defending ourselves from the insults of any surrounding, rapacious enemy. And should Great Britain leave us wholly to ourselves, by withdrawing from us the protection of her irresistible Navy, I shudder at the very thought of the miserable condition in which such an event would involve us.

“Divide and govern,” is the maxim adopted by all tyrants who apprehend a suc-

cessful or formidable opposition to their arbitrary machinations, from a firm coalition against them of the different parties upon whom they had evil designs. By the arts of intrigue and policy Philip of Macedon first obtained the completion of his ambitious views upon the Grecian states; and by jealousy and civil dissensions among themselves, they afterwards became an easy prey to enemies whom they had before effectually baffled by their unanimity. The federal plan respectively cemented between the Dutch Provinces, the Swiss Cantons, and the North American States, clearly exhibits the expediency of a close connexion between them to preserve their general Independence; and the proximity of Scotland to England, between which the Partition-wall is almost ideal, satisfactorily proves that Nature intended they should be united under one head, not only as a preventative against intestine commotions among themselves, but also to advance

their power and consequence, and to secure them the more strongly against the hostile projects of any enemy that looked upon them with a jealous eye, or seriously meditated their subjugation. Highly applicable to ourselves is the wise lesson of the father who, on his death-bed, called in his sons, to whom he delivered a bundle of twigs tied up, desiring them to break it, which they in vain essayed to do, but were able to accomplish it with ease, when the rods were singly presented to them; from which he took an opportunity of inculcating the indispensable duty of fraternal concord to maintain their mutual safety. The inhabitants of Ireland, intimately joined to Great Britain, and relying upon Providence for protection, may smile with superlative contempt at the menaces of all surrounding foes; separated from England they must inevitably become the conquered vassals of some powerful assailant, even supposing our sister kingdom not to be

the attacking nation, but merely to remain neuter, and leave us to our fate. And if we heartily bewail the sorrows of our bleeding Country, lacerated so grievously by civil feuds, I cannot conceive a remedy so efficacious as an Union, not only to heal our present wounds, but also to act as an antidote to ward off future onsets from the parts which are now found to be so very vulnerable.

It is insinuated that an Union would prove highly prejudicial to our manufactures, because, when the English Merchant, burdened with large protecting duties in our favor, is able to undersel us in our own markets, what must be the case when these difficulties are removed? Admitting this objection to be well-founded, yet I am led to imagine that the complaint is to be attributed to our own conduct in a great degree, and that additional industry and frugality on our side would administer a compleat cure for what we are

disposed to regard as an intolerable evil. Sorry am I to observe that we are destitute of that integrity in our dealings which characterizes the inhabitants of England in an eminent manner; that unpardonable pride deters us from embarking in several branches of business to which they assiduously apply themselves; and that we frequently retire from the bustle of an active life, to squander in luxury and dissipation a fortune which we call considerable, but which many of our British neighbours would reckon no more than a moderate capital for the commencement of trade. Besides, should we not consider that in the exportation of Beef, Butter, and various other articles, we reap particular benefit; and that we have an exclusive advantage in our staple manufacture, the Linen Trade, in which we must always remain unrivalled: And would it not be a desirable object for us to secure, by means of an Union, the immediate introduction of several Commodities which we actually

stand in need of, or are determined to possess, but which we are at present constrained to procure in a circuitous channel, exposed to much danger by a coasting sea passage, and at a sensibly advanced price.

If I may presume to say any thing relative to the number of Peers and Commoners, who should represent this kingdom in the British Parliament, in consequence of an Union; I would beg leave to suggest, that our four Arch-Bishops, together with the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Justices of the King's Bench, and Common Pleas, the chief Baron of Exchequer, and twelve other Lay Lords, should sit in the House of Peers, either personally or by proxy; and that sixty members from Ireland, should have seats in the House of Commons, which we ought to be contented with; as Scotland has not any reasonable cause of being dissatisfied with a smaller number; and with the exception of gentlemen who were attending their duty in Parliament, I would approve of the

exaction of an annual tax, to the amount of five shillings to the pound, from every person who enjoyed a landed property in Ireland, and yet was an absentee from it during three months each year. People indeed, actuated by motives of interest, may exclaim against this, as an arbitrary attack upon the liberty of the subject, in not permitting him to reside wherever he chose, but surely, to speak in the language of Scripture, “where the carcase is, there shall the Eagles be gathered together;” and in point of strict equity, where the means of living are regularly obtained, there ought they also to be expended. However, though I look upon Absentees, as the idle drones which rob the industrious bees of their honey; yet I would readily consent that one thousand of them, possessed of five thousand pounds annually on an average, should withdraw themselves altogether from this kingdom, on condition that an equal number of British manufacturers, with a capital of five millions of pounds, could be prevailed upon to settle among us.

I reside upon a farm, the annual value of which has been trebled at least since it came into my hands, by the care and attention bestowed upon it; and yet many of my neighbours who enjoyed equal advantages with me, and had as great domestic claims upon them, have suffered their lands to remain in a shameful state of negligence, merely through sloth and idleness; for though they pretended to theoretic knowledge, yet they had not resolution to make experiments which might have richly repaid all their labour and expence. I mention this, not from any ostentatious principle with regard to myself, because my line of conduct was no other than what common prudence dictated, but to expose the slovenly, lazy carriage of too many among my countrymen, and to shew that by their own reprehensible indolence, with respect to tillage, their grounds have been much less productive, than they could be rendered by proper management; and that the hardships which they may occasionally

happen to feel by a scarcity of provisions, is to be charged infinitely more to their own supine behaviour, without bringing intoxication at all into the account, than the inclemency of the seasons, the barrenness of their fields, the severity of landlords, or the exorbitant weight of tithes and taxes, about which they are well inclined to raise such an outcry.

It is absolutely unavoidable, for Ireland to become an appendage either to France or England. Should we be conquered by the former of these Nations; the inexpressibly wretched condition of the countries they have pillaged and overrun, may serve to teach us what we might necessarily expect, from a successful incursion of such unprincipled invaders. If however we rely upon them as friends, to assist us in asserting what we call our violated Rights, we lean upon a broken reed, which must pierce us to the heart; for even supposing that some of these predatory ruffians, should by stealth effect a

landing in this country, for the purpose of seconding the wicked designs of the native insurgents; are we weak enough to think that England, whilst she rides triumphant on the ocean, would remain an idle spectator of such proceedings, and not hurl destruction upon our perfidious coadjutors? and would we not split into inveterate parties among ourselves, become a prey to British energy, and concord, and sink into a subdued and depopulated province, severely scourged with the rod of affliction, which our own rebellious temerity drew down upon us, and justly esteemed undeserving of lenity or confidence? But I augur better things, and ardently trust that the demon of folly, intemperance and licentiousness, will not acquire so great an ascendancy over us, as to involve us in such calamitous circumstances.

It may be whispered, that an Union would reduce to the humble standard of country Squires, a considerable number of Irish Peers, who could not procure seats in the British Parliament. But what has such

a consideration to do with the aggrandizement of this nation at large? nay, what has it do, with very many of the Noblemen in question, whose extreme relish for retirement, has hitherto prevented them from personally discharging the duties of their senatorial function? and as for the others, if they can perform the wholesome task of accommodating themselves to their new situation, and study to demean themselves towards their fellow-creatures, with the conciliating dignity of gentlemen, they will experience a larger degree of veneration among mankind, than a supercilious carriage, or the vain trappings of pageantry can ever secure, and which must fully compensate for the imaginary degradation of their superior rank and consequence.

During the late American war, the English East India Company, presented to his Majesty four Sail of the Line, carrying 74 Guns each, compleatly equipped for sea. The tongue of envy will doubtless,

state this to have been a selfish compliment; but did we, on that occasion, contribute so much as a single frigate? I know it may be replied that our Parliament voted a certain sum of money in order to furnish a supply of failors. Are we, however, to arrogate any credit to ourselves for a mere matter of necessity, and on the adoption of which our own safety in a great measure depended? And methinks that glory and profit abundantly recompensed the gallant men who served on board the fleet at this juncture. We have, indeed, a sort of nominal Court of Admiralty, suited to our *Imperial Grandeur*, and freed from the burden of constructing or superintending an Irish Navy; but did not the British Fleet protect our commerce, how could we venture to avail ourselves of our insular situation with any flattering prospect of advantage?

As I never yet spent a moment of my life out of Ireland, nor, most probably, ever will, it cannot reasonably be insinu-

ated that I wish to depreciate the place of my nativity, though I conceive I am excusable in suggesting that we ought not to arrogate to ourselves qualifications which experience proves we cannot unquestionably lay claim to: because our self-complacency will render us blind to the imperfections which we labor under, and, consequently, insensible to the expediency of a reformation; for why should we endeavour to remove blemishes which our fostering fondness will not permit us to behold in a criminal light: The majority of our emigrants to other countries are far from being generally esteemed; because it is pretty openly urged that their behaviour at home was not commendable, and from thence it is inferred that a change of climate will not effect a desirable alteration of temper. I am much concerned to observe, that we have not incontrovertible pretensions to honesty, industry, sobriety and devotion, and must not, of course, look upon ourselves to be an Island of

Saints, whose exemplary lives leave no room for amendment. It must not, however be denied that we have many striking instances of sincere, disinterested friendship to boast of; and that compassion for objects in distress has a distinguished influence upon us. Hospitality and courage are alledged to be our national characteristics: But do not our convivial associations very frequently terminate in bestiality? And even without dwelling too much upon the execrable atrocities which have affixed an indelible odium to the late rebellion in this kingdom, is not our bravery repeatedly marked by rashness, revenge, and wanton ferocity? A cordial and anxious desire, therefore, for the substantial happiness of this island, inclines me fondly to expect that an Union with Great Britain will induce many Englishmen to settle among us, to augment and improve our manufactures; to prompt us to imitate them in their advantageous mode of husbandry; to meliorate and civilize our

manners; and check that hateful propensity to pride and insolence which has so long operated against our rising to opulence by a sedulous and unwearied application to our several avocations. As by civilization I understand a laudable respect for piety, honesty, and morality; God help those depraved scholars who, taking the French for their preceptors, would wickedly suppose me to mean a cringing politeness, devoid of sincerity, and an audacious contempt for every solemn institution, human and divine; but though I will not unreservedly pronounce that we are a nation of untamed monsters, yet I cannot avoid acknowledging that many acts of cruelty have been recently perpetrated among us which would disgrace the most unlettered Negro in the wilds of Africa itself.

It may be said that an Union with Great Britain would be fraught with the most ruinous consequences to Dublin in particu-

lar. I readily grant that there may be some foundation for such an alarm, but by no means to such an extent as selfish or prejudiced persons are induced to represent it; nor can it become that dreary wilderness which a gloomy imagination may figure to itself. The removal of our Parliament will certainly be attended with considerable loss to the citizens of our present Metropolis, which they may, notwithstanding, in a great measure ^{be} remedied by a more economical mode of living, in discontinuing their extravagant routs, parting with their expensive country-houses, dismissing their costly equipages, and repressing their dissipated indulgences; and they will still retain among them the seat of a permanent Viceroy, a flourishing University, the Courts of Justice, a National Bank, and a General Post Office. Besides, the additional influx of money into this country, which I am without hesitation led to believe would result from the adoption of such an establishment as we are treating

of, should incline us to overlook the injury sustained by any single place, when contrasted with the benefit accruing to the community at large; and though the coalition which I speak of should even bear hard upon my own little property, yet I know I could submit to such an amputation without murmuring, in consequence of its contributing in any degree to the good of the State. I shall not, by the bye, pretend to affirm that our circumstances will enable us to pay any of the national debt already contracted by Great Britain, nor do I think that justice or generosity would warrant such a demand; but I hope we will never be found backward in a zealous support of the British Empire, in proportion to our ability, and that the prudence and equity of Administration will not attempt to exact more from us.

Could it be made appear, that the laws framed in Great Britain, are less perfect and equitable, than those which owe their birth

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to Ireland, there might be some justice in the unwillingness we display to relinquish our prerogative in this particular; but I think we will not be hardy enough to deny, that our most admired Statutes originated in England, and that we ought not to be ashamed of borrowing from so excellent a stock. Besides, how can we pretend to affirm, that an Union will deprive us of the unalienable privilege of Legislating for ourselves, while a number of Irish Representatives hold seats in the British Parliament? or what ground of reason have we to surmise, that under so glorious a Constitution as we enjoy, it could be reckoned good policy in Administration, to depress *any part* of the Empire intentionally, where it is evidently advantageous to promote the welfare of *every part*. Scotland, indeed, at first started many objections against a connexion with England, instigated thereto, without doubt, by an unjustifiable national pride on one hand, and likewise, as it would seem, from a ruinous infatuation of keeping alive a ranco-

rous quarrel of rivalry between the neighbouring countries, which to her had oftentimes produced such woful distrefs; but two difaftrous rebellions, madly embarked in on the fcore of feparation, brought her to a proper fenfe of her extreme folly; and her clofe application to agriculture and commerce, in which ſhe has ſince ſo eminently thriven, has taught her by experience, the beſt fort of wiſdom, that ſhe has had no cauſe to complain for having incorporated her ſenate into the English Parliament: and if Scotland which is only ſemi-ſiſular, has acquired conſpicuous proſperity by Trade, ſince her intimate junction with England, how infinitely ſupreior muſt our advantages be in a ſimilar ſituation, whoſe harbours lie open to every point of the compaſs, and whoſe lands boaſt naturally of a ſoil peculiarly fertile? How ſingularly happy muſt we become, bleſſed as we are with an incomparably wholeſome climate, if by induſtry, frugality and a bold ſpirit of enterprize, we cultivate the opportunities of

abundance and comfort, which Providence has graciously vouchsafed to throw in our way? Could our lower ranks of people prudently restrain that inconsistent passion for Politics which has deplorably exposed them to the influence of disaffected, ambitious knaves, and devote to diligence in their respective occupations, the many precious hours which they unfortunately lavish upon riot, gambling and drunkenness; respectability and affluence would reward their virtuous conduct, and the fruition of health and mental satisfaction, bestow a tenfold relish upon their worldly enjoyments. But when they busy themselves extravagantly in State affairs, which are far beyond the sphere of comprehension, they miserably pervert the end of their creation, and injure the community in an essential manner by their factious and turbulent behaviour, at the same time that they wantonly neglect the means of rendering their own circumstances easy and independent.

In a world composed of jarring, perishable materials, we must not look for any thing absolutely permanent. The laws of the Medes and Persians were vainly represented to be *unchangeable*; and yet what is now become of them? Offensive and defensive alliances have been ratified between different Nations, which erring mortals have declared to be of *perpetual* force; and yet how short-lived has war, or some other circumstance, rendered their existence? The *everlasting* commercial treaty between France and England was dissolved almost at the instant of its formation, most probably never again to be revived. A man by the increase or diminution of his fortune, or by the birth or death of friends, may find it requisite to alter a will, which he had once confirmed as the *invariable* distribution of his property. And compacts and agreements between private individuals, and public states, pronounced to be of *eternal* duration, may be frequently abrogated, by numberless conspiring and unforeseen occurrences,

without any actual, or premeditated infringement upon the rules of strict equity and justice. I am not a stickler for passive obedience, non-resistance, or the divine right of Kings: nor do I plead for a stability of government, without any exception, because in doing so I would be a supporter of despotism; yet the conduct of the French, in rejecting this odious species of authority, before they substituted any other form in its place, has demonstrated that even arbitrary rule is preferable to anarchy and confusion, and as we are apt to nauseate medicines which are of the most fanative quality, and are too credulous in believing the deceitful tales of State Quacks, who prescribe political nostrums replete with infallible virtues, as they would insinuate. How cautious then ought we to be in listening to the selfish representations of ambitious impostors, who aspire to legislative power, and who, if advanced to that situation, would prove the most intolerant tyrants, that ever cursed the miserable dupes of their treachery?

Should the tempest of wrathful clamor be raised against me, I will not retort, so that the hurricane which would rive the sturdy, resisting oak, shall pass innocuous over my head; for, bending like the humble willow beneath the furious storm, I will thereby elude its desolating rage. Be it remembered, however, that irony, scurrility, or invective cannot alter my sentiments, or convince me that my opinions are erroneous or censurable, though my positions may not, perhaps, possess that strength of argument, or facility of expression with which other writers can so happily elucidate this truly momentous subject. Should I be loaded with unprovoked abuse, and my little Essay accused of being frigid and superficial; I shall make no other defence than to avow the integrity of my intention in the part which I have ventured to espouse, and in this particular I will not yield to any individual among my opponents or coadjutors. Though the tide of popularity may at pre-

fent flow violently against that side of the question which I have embraced, yet it does not necessarily follow from thence that I am wrong, unless it can be indubitably proved that the majority which dissents from me must be invariably right; and yet we all know and confess that men are sometimes so obstinately wedded to palpable errors, as to be impervious to conviction. I do not build my attachment to the measure of an Union upon mere speculation, plausible hypothesis, quibbling sophistry, or pecuniary prospects, but on plain, unadorned matter of fact, analogous deductions, liberal, patriotic principles, and rational calculations with respect to future possible contingencies, so far as my contracted understanding enables me to judge; and therefore my mistakes are the offspring of weak intellects, and not of deliberately imposing design. Brilliant talents, fertility of conception, and animated elegance of diction are not at my command; but I will not readily wave

my pretensions to that probity of mind which my conscience tells me that I have never yet forfeited by the commission of any dishonorable act.

In a word; I am well assured that the infernal temper, of our detestable, domestic foes, will stimulate them to strain every faculty of their corrupted minds in disseminating sedition and discord throughout this country; in reviving the smothered rebellion, by kindling afresh the embers of disaffection; and endeavouring to alienate even our regular troops, militia and yeomen from their sworn allegiances, by falsehood and misrepresentation; but as their abominable plots and conspiracies have been hitherto detected, and terminated in confusion to themselves: so I trust that our valiant soldiers will be prompted by the impulse of honor and duty, to turn a deaf ear to the professions of their meditated deceivers, by resolutely opposing their nefarious machinations; that the good sense of the nation

will not suffer itself to be misled by the wicked designs of crafty insidious miscreants, who affect a warm attachment for a measure which so manifestly militates against their democratic schemes; and that we will not be warped by fullen or petulant prejudice, merely against the name of an Union, without duly weighing the importance of the object under consideration; giving it a fair and candid investigation; and seriously calculating the dangers and losses possibly attendant on a rejection of it.

When the wild phrenzy of the times subsides, I flatter myself I shall share the mite of applause, in common with my fellow-laborers in this cause, for our affectionate addresses to our Countrymen on the momentous subject of an Union. Let the voice of unbiassed reason be heard, and by her decision alone let us be determined in all our deliberations. Let me not be taxed with the introduction of ex-

traneous matter, until we reflect that the coalition which we are contemplating comprehends a multiplicity of interesting circumstances. Should it not bear the aspect of methodistical sermonizing, I would remark that our passage through life is transitory, and rugged at the best. Is it not, then, inexcusably imprudent, nay, is it not unfeelingly cruel, in us inconsistently to augment the vexations which we cannot avoid, and plant thorns in our narrow path, which must inflict anguish upon others, as well as ourselves?

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