

good, it ought to and will be made. No danger is then to be apprehended from the great mass of the people.

But there is danger that a few evil disposed persons, actuated by motives of personal aggrandizement, ambition, or an innate fondness for tumult and disorder; or a party, infuriated by the doctrines of some factious demagogue, may assail our institutions, and unless restrained by the arm of power, might plunge the State and themselves in one common ruin. This is an evil that in most instances, may safely be left to be corrected by public opinion. Recent events in this State have demonstrated that this is an effective remedy. A few months only have elapsed since a handful of men attempted a great revolution of our government, usurped to themselves the sovereignty of the State, and endeavored to substitute, in the place of the established authorities, a provisional convention, called without law, and with power to do any and every thing! What has been the result? The people have risen in their majesty, frowned indignantly on this unjustifiable attempt, and consigned the actors to a merited obloquy.

The failure of this attempted revolution is most gratifying to the patriot, and affords the most certain evidence that the people are capable of self-government, and may safely be trusted with the preservation of their own liberties. It has demonstrated the proposition, that public opinion can control and defeat the evil designs of those who may attempt to overthrow our institutions; and has done more to establish civil liberty on a broad and sure foundation, than any event which has occurred since the Declaration of Independence.

Notwithstanding public opinion may be relied on to maintain the integrity of the constitution, and finally to defeat any attempt to overthrow it, it cannot be relied on to check every petty outbreaking, or sudden attack.— These, though they cannot be ultimately successful, may do incalculable injury: and it is therefore necessary that the Executive arm of the government should be strengthened to curb their violence. Occasions will rarely, and it is to be sincerely hoped, will never occur, when they will be necessary; but still the Executive should have them within their reach, when it may be proper to resort to their use. Constant preparation for defence is the surest safeguard from attack. Those who postpone the hour of arming till the enemy have charged, will always