

Union in November 1789, about seven months after the Government had gone into full operation in all its departments, and Rhode Island in May, 1790, more than a year after the organization of the Government. From the date of the organization of the Government, to the time of their ratifying the constitution, respectively, North Carolina and Rhode Island were considered as foreign nations. This fact is stated in the preface to an edition of the *Federalist*, published in Washington in 1818, thus. "When the constitution was ratified, Rhode Island and North Carolina, from honest but mistaken convictions, for a moment withheld their assent. But when Congress proceeded solemnly to enact that the manufactures of those States should be considered as *foreign*, and that the Acts laying a duty on goods imported, and on tonnage, should extend to them, they hastened, with a discernment quickened by a sense of interest, and at the same time honorable to their patriotic views, to unite themselves to the confederation."

Political parties divided under the administration of the first Adams, upon the constitutionality of the alien and sedition laws. In 1798, under the lead of Madison and Jefferson, Virginia and Kentucky asserted, in legislative resolves, the doctrine of State sovereignty, which was affirmed again in 1799. In 1800, the Republican party of that day came into power by a large majority, on that issue, with Jefferson as President.

In the year 1814, during the war with Great Britain, the doctrine of State Sovereignty was emphatically asserted by the New England States. The Legislature of Massachusetts appointed twelve delegates from that State, to meet and confer with delegates from the other New England States, or any other, upon the subject of their public grievances and concerns," &c. Connecticut appointed seven delegates and Rhode Island four, by their respective Legislatures, who met with the Massachusetts delegates at Hartford, Connecticut, in December, 1814. Three persons from New Hampshire and one from Vermont appeared as delegates chosen by local conventions in those States, and were admitted as members. After a secret session of three weeks, they published a report, from which the following extracts are taken :

History of Hartford Convention by the Secretary, 355.

"Whenever it shall appear that these causes are radical and permanent, a separation, by equitable arrangement, will be preferable to an alliance by constraint, among nominal friends but real enemies, inflamed by mutual hatred and jealousy, and inviting, by intestine divisions, contempt and aggression from abroad. But a severance of the Union by one or more States, against the will of the rest, and especially in a time of war, can be justified only by absolute necessity."