

talons, and shipped again to England, and the last hope of foreign interference died out, how disgraced we were by the surrender ! Centuries could not wipe it out. Well, then, in this particular, as in all others, did the Father of his Country counsel us; and in any light we may chose to view it, foreign influence, whether as a source of fancied security, or as a source of certain destruction, is alike to be dreaded. But the master-idea of the Address—and to which all others are subordinate or auxiliary—is the preservation and continuance of the Federal Union. Cold, diplomatic or logical upon other subjects, upon this, Washington always warms into the most affectionate zeal. He prays that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual—that you should cherish for the Union a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment—watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety—discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can, in any event, be abandoned, and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of any attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest. Such is the sublime language of entreaty and passionate appeal that he makes use of, unusual for him, for, though a man of strong passions, he had them under decided control.

The Revolution of 1776 accomplished more than the independence of the Colonies of the British Crown. It accomplished the American Union. During the progress of the struggle, and up to the adoption of the present Constitution, under the old Articles of Confederation, the several Colonies were like so many beads upon a string. There was no central power—no heart—no individual will—that could wield this series of Republics. Congress acted by its laws—not directly upon the people, but indirectly through their several Assemblies. The Government was not a united and uniform system, but composed of the dislocated parts of a system. The Constitution of the United States assimilated these parts, moulded the nation, hitherto made up of thirteen portions, into one, and while it did not destroy altogether the identity of any one of them, it still established, for the nation it created, an identity greater and more distinct—and that which, the world would be called upon to recognize.

The Colonies were no longer beads upon a string—they were living branches of the same imperial vine. Is it any wonder then, that Washington recollecting the weakness of the old Confederation and the strength of the new Union, should beg for its continuance, and should even show by an argument, one of the most common now made use of against Secession, that the East, being the natural outlet of the productions of the West, could never be severed from it, except by a violent disruption? If we have not the recollection of a divided, distracted and loose Confederation to stimulate our devotion to