

"power of regulating elections for the National Government in the hands of the State legislatures would leave the existence of the Union at their mercy" —

Chap 60. page 172 "We have seen that an uncontrollable power over elections for the federal Government could not, without hazard be committed to the State Legislatures — Let us now see what would be the dangers on the other side; that is, from confiding the ultimate right of regulating its own elections to the Union itself" —

I shall not seek any further for a discovery of the Federalist's sentiments on the extent and importance of the authority he had under examination — It was not the regulation of minute circumstances that he resolved into an engine capable (if left exclusively to the States) of effecting the destruction of the Union, but the choice of an infinity of methods of dividing the States, for the purpose of obtaining a representation not according in number, with their actual partitions — The possible modes of doing this being without limit, it was with reason apprehended by the Convention that some of the States might hereafter, upon any offense taken at the proceedings of the general Government, have malice and ingenuity enough to devise such regulations as would either entirely prevent elections or would fill the Legislature of the Union with men incapable of conducting its affairs, or perhaps with men resolved to gratify their animosities by a dissolution of it. I enumerate these different modes of expression used by the Federalist to show that when he was examining the authority of prescribing the "times, places, and manner of holding elections" he did not vary from the text through inadvertence, but that he indulged a latitude in his language evidently through a confidence that his subject was broad enough to admit of any change of terms —

The Federalist concludes that an election law could not have been framed and inserted into the Constitution that would have been applicable to every probable change of situation in the Country — This is very true, considering an election law in the important light in which this writer views it — but supposing it according to Mr P's doctrine to have for its objects only the regulation of time, place, and the lesser circumstances attached to elections, I assert