

than to let, they will not intermeddle, those who have in charge the most important question of the day

The purchase of Louisiana, although loudly denounced at the time and declared to be a sufficient cause for a dissolution of the Union, is now regarded by almost every man whose opinions are entitled to respect, as a measure of infinite advantage to the Union and conferring last honor on the administration of the ablest great man, under whose auspices it was accomplished. It is a little while at this day to advert to the history of the times, when the policy of annexing Louisiana was under discussion. We then witness another of those memorable instances of which all history is full wherein the passions, prejudices, and personal rivalries of those who direct the destinies of States blind the judgment to the clear proof that they are existing measures of the most salutary tendency for the people whose whose confidence they enjoy and whose interests it is their duty to promote. Who at this day would consent to have the millions of human beings who are to make their homes on the broad lands drained by that great river the Mississippi, and its tributaries dependent upon treaty stipulations with a foreign power for the privilege of passing with the production of their fertile fields out to the markets of the world? Yet forty years ago, we recall, patriotic men, even whole States, threatened to dissolve the Union unless the policy of annexing Louisiana was abandoned with as much earnestness as they now resort to the same means of foundation against the proposed introduction of slaves into the Confederacy. There was a stronger apology then than there is now for doubting the policy of enlarging our boundaries. The power of the wild government like ours acting <sup>primarily</sup> upon the opinions and but little for political purposes upon the passions of its citizens, had not then been illustrated. Experience and theory now combine to demonstrate, copies of our confederacy of the Republics may be placed at any distance from the centre that is not too remote for those temporarily admitted with the management, or personally interested in the Legislative, Executive or Judicial departments, to resort to the remedy to the seat of the General Government. Tested by this principle the extreme southern or western boundary of Texas is as much more eminent an issue for the Confederacy now than were the northern boundaries of Maine or Wisconsin at the adoption of the Federal Constitution. In the more of receding sixty years ago there were in a thousand miles more impediments to be overcome by the traveller than are presented at this day in a distance of three thousand miles when the power of steam propels the boats over the surface of our lakes and rivers and drives the car along our rail roads at the rate of twenty miles an hour. We live in an age of progress. And we owe it to ourselves and our posterity not to mislead from unworthy motives that advance to perfection in the science of Government as in every other science which daily experience proves to be attainable. What force of imagination could depict the miseries to which the people of the old world have been subjected under received opinions as to Government incited by their selfish and ambitious rulers. For many ages England with a territorial surface less than that of Virginia was divided