

My Dear Sir, Waterville Jan. 29th 1819.

From what observations I have been able to make, I am fully satisfied that the subject of separation is gaining advocates in this quarter, daily— Many who were neuter when the question was last agitated, would now vote in favor of the measure: some who were violently opposed before, would now be neuter: or, perhaps, in favor. Every candid, reflecting man, confesses that the present time— a time when the public mind is tranquil, not distracted, as heretofore, with party rage; a time when there is no great national rights discussed to the up and agitate by which political controversies are agitated— a time in fact, when party feelings, if not dead, are slumbering; is the most favorable period for adjusting and framing a Constitution for the government of the state, that shall best guard & protect the rights of the people. Every man who can see “an inch before his nose”, sees that, if we are not separated at present, the period is not far distant, when we must and shall be — He sees that “delays are dangerous” that the present opportunity is not embraced, the subject may in future be called up, at a time less tranquil, and at a time when the people will be less likely to agree upon that frame of Government which shall best secure to each class of the community its due weight. — Considerations like these, I think, have at present, an important bearing on the minds of many people in this quarter. — We cannot, to be sure, see far into futurity— neither can we look into, ~~the hearts~~ and discover what thoughts are lurking in the hearts of men; but from present appearances it would seem that, if the question should be tried in the course of next spring or summer, there will ^{be} no very powerful opposition. — Can there be a doubt of our sufficiency of wealth and population for self-government? If there be, compare the situation of Maine in those respects, with every state that has been admitted into the Union for twenty years past, and his doubts must be removed. — If there should be any one who believes that, after separation, and a fair trial of the experiment of self-government, the people

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Can there be a doubt of our sufficiency of wealth and population for self-government? If there be, compare the situation of Maine in those respects, with every state that has been admitted into the Union for twenty years past, and his doubts must be removed.

If there should be any one who believes that, after separation, and a fair trial of the experiment of self-government, the people

would regret the change; let him travel thro every state that
has been admitted into the Union, and see how many are to be
found, who would be willing to annul their charter, and resume
their territorial form of Gov't, or again become appendages to the
state from which they were taken. -- But I have already
written much more than I intended when I began, and likely
enough, more than you will have patience to peruse--

I will therefore conclude by subscribing myself

your very affectionate friend & servt.

Abijah Smith

Gen. John Chandler.

P.S. I have just been informed by a gentleman
from Vassalboro, that "they would be in favor of the
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