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New York Journal, 12 July 1787 (excerpt)

From a CORRESPONDENT.

When we cast our eyes around, my countrymen, what feuds, what discords do we behold from the several quarters of the United States! while those in the east only *appear* to be dying away, new, and accumulated evils seem to be gethering in the west. The treaty with Spain, relative to the navigation of the Missisippi, has set the people, on the falls of the Ohio, &c. into a political phrenzy; the general voice of the western community (who, it is said, can raise 20,000 militia) is, EQUAL LIBERTY with the thirteen states, or a *breach of peace*, and a *new alliance!*—There is a shoal of letters now in circulation, from different parts of this extensive territory, which purport this, and more; some of them must be branded with the epithets of *insolence*, *&c.* however just their complaints may be. Why are not remonstrances made, through a proper channel, for the rescinding of the resolve of Congress (if such a one there be) respecting this species of *cession* of the Missisippi?—but, where is this proper channel!—These circumstances greatly corroborate the necessity of an immediate *Efficient Fœderal Government!* consequently, to blow the trumpet, and sound the alarm, is incumbent on every public printer, who, with the honorable chancellor, in his late oration, acknowledges, that *the joys of the American independence are mingled with anxiety.*[1]—If any *grievances* exist, what they are, and their tendencies, ought doubtless, cooly, and impartially to be discussed, by some adequate pen, in the public papers; but, to suffer *pieces*, which are studiously calculated to alarm the community (and which perhaps originate with our internal enemies) to circulate unanswered and undetected, is *criminal* negligence, and the height of *impolicy*. . . .

1. Taken from Robert R. Livingston's Fourth of July oration to the New York Society of the Cincinnati.

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