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Republicus

Kentucky Gazette, 1 March 1788 (excerpt)

. . . To conclude, I can think of but one source of right to government, or any branch of it; and that is *the people*. They, and only they, have a right to determine whether they will make laws, or execute them, or do both in a collective body, or by a delegated authority. Delegation is a positive actual investiture. Therefore if any people are subjected to an authority which they have not thus actually chosen; even though they may have tamely submitted to it, yet it is not their legitimate government: they are wholly passive, and as far as they are so, are in a state of slavery. Thank heaven we are not yet ar[r]ived at that state; and while we continue to have sense enough to discover and detect, and virtue enough to detest and oppose every attempt, either of *force* or *fraud*, either from *without* or *within*, to bring us into it, we never will.

Let us therefore continue united in the cause of rational liberty. Let unity and liberty be our mark as well as our motto: for only such an union can secure our freedom; and division will inevitably destroy it. Thus a mountain of sand may peace-meal be removed by the feeble hands of a child: but if consolidated into a rock, it mocks the united efforts of mankind, and can only fall in a general wreck of nature[.]

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