

Extract of a Letter from New-York, May 4th, 1800

Philadelphia *Aurora*, May 7, 1800

Their [the Federalists'] despondency approaches to the melancholy of despair; at a party meeting held last night, it was suggested that Mr. Jay should immediately call the old legislature of this state together, and that they should invest him with the power of choosing the Electors of President and Vice-President, in order to prevent the effects of the recent change in the peoples minds' from taking effect. Whether this will be attempted by Mr. Jay or not is uncertain. But when it was urged that it might lead to civil war, if the obvious temper of the public were opposed, a person present observed, that a civil war would be preferable to having Jefferson for President. This expression hurt one or two, but there were many more who warmly supported him, and seemed to think that a contest at arms would be desirable. From such politicians good Lord deliver us. It might suit the abandoned politics of Hamilton and [Timothy] Pickering, but I do not think that our federal youth would be found very forward to resist the spirit which is now so determined here and as far as I see every where else in the Union.