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Tendencies during the Confederation Period

## *Fairfield Gazette, 25 July 1787*

*Extract of a Letter from Philadelphia, dated June 19.*

I am happy to inform you that by our latest accounts from England, the scheme for a coalition, which originated in Connecticut, and which is so agreeable to the people of America, and so manifestly for their interest, meets with a favorable reception from the British Court. The affair is yet a profound secret; but we are assured by those who have the cause in trust, that a disposition discovers itself intirely to meet the wishes of the people on this side the water. The King and Ministry are sensible that, sooner or later, both Nova-Scotia and Canada must necessarily be annexed to the American Empire; and that an early and permanent union with this nascent power, on terms of reciprocal interest, is an object of the highest importance to the glory of both nations. Nothing surely can be more evidently the policy of this country, (nor we presume more agreeable to England) than an expedient which, while it perpetuated the felicity of that nation, would at once relieve us from all our embarrassments and difficulties, and restore to us, not only all those commercial advantages which we enjoyed previous to the war, but which would afford us all the other privileges of every kind, possessed by the most independent and powerful nation on earth. No other project which may occur to the mind, can seem more eligible than the one at present in contemplation: Gen. Washington, though unexceptionable in every respect of his virtues, would probably decline the crown were it offered him; but insuperable difficulties oppose themselves to the elevation of any person from the mass of Citizens in America to the Royal Dignity; as much from the envy of the people, as from an inability to make the establishment. Without a power or disposition to raise money sufficient for the support of the present Civil List, what hopes can we have of creating a fund for the maintenance of a King, and the various appendages of Royalty? But admitting our capacity of accomplishing this first object, yet, destitute as we are of a Navy or the hope of one, few of those advantages can be expected from a system with this essential deficiency, which we might promise ourselves from the acquisition of a British Prince, with forty sail of the line, the province of Nova Scotia and Canada, a Royal Establishment, and an *Alliance with the Crown of England*. — The Bishop of Oznaburg, as dear to the British nation as amiable in the eyes of the world, would find no difficulty in obtaining these bequests, and this country would surely have great reason to felicitate itself upon an event which would place us upon a footing with the most respectable powers of the earth. The appointment of the court and favorites from among our own citizens, would be a sufficient provision for the men now in influence and those employed in affairs, and would be as effectual in uniting all parties, as, unequivocally, to bind the affections of the Prince to the Kingdom. Our independence would be more secure, and as complete as ever; our trade as free as air, and extensive as the globe itself. — The King would consider our country as his proper inheritance; as rising in importance —

and, detached from England and those prejudices peculiar to vulgar minds;—established upon the principles of the British Constitution, and holding the sceptre with such favorable auspices; we might expect with assurance, he would turn his attachment to the interest of his American subjects.

One circumstance should be impressed upon the people, though of little moment indeed in competition with an event of this nature, that our alliance with France, would not necessarily as some suppose, be dissolved; the good sense of the world having at length prevailed over those narrow jealousies with respect to trade; which are found by experience to be mutually injurious to the interests of the contending nations.

Great is the uneasiness of the people here and of the southern States, with the present confusion and oppression of government; and all seem convinced that we can expect no relief but from an energetic and vigorous administration under the auspices of Royal Authority.

The scheme ripens fast; there are numbers indeed, who cannot yet divest themselves of their prejudices to a British Prince, though they acknowledge our affairs are thrown into such confusion, that nothing can prevent our fate in the ruin before us, but the alternative presented to our choice. The convention we understand have the subject in their deliberation, and are harmonious in their opinions; the means only of accomplishing so great an event, appears principally to occupy their counsels. The affair must get a circulation among the people, and without any appearance of design there is no doubt, if they were made to know their interests, and their suffrages were taken, three fourths of the citizens would be in favor of monarchy—I shall be happy to hear of the success of the cause in your part of the world:—If the people there are as much awakened and as warmly engaged as in these States, I have reason to hope the great business will be accomplished in the course of six months!

Mr. Adams's book being published at this time is extremely fortunate;—that great politician and patriot, so popular both in America and Europe, appears throughout to be clear for monarchy.

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