

advantageous to us, for they would then perceive that no other
Confederation, than one so formed, can be lasting. Altho the
prospect of immediate calamities, the dread of their
continuance from the appearance of dissension, and from
other peculiar circumstances may have induced some
States to accede to the present Confederation contrary to
their own Intuitions and Judgments, it requires no great
Share of Foresight to predict, that when these Causes
cease to operate, the States which have thus acceded to
the Confederation, will consider it as no longer binding,
and will eagerly embrace the first occasion of asserting
their just Rights, and securing their Independence. That
the former may be violated, and the latter endangered, we
have no doubt. Is it probable that those States, who are
Ambitiously grasping at Territories, to which in our Judgment
they have not the least shadow of exclusive right, will
use the greater Moderation the increase of localities and
profits derived from those Territories, when acquired, than
what they have displayed in their arduous to acquire
them? No I think not, we are convinced the same Spirit
which hath prompted them to insist on a Claim so
extravagant, so repugnant to every principle of Justice,
is incompatible with the general Welfare of all the States,

(with)