

to interfere at a future time, and to split off a part of its Territory to be erected into a new and free State and admitted into the Confederation on such conditions, as shall be settled by said States. If it is necessary for the happiness and tranquility of a State thus overgrown, that Congress should hereafter interfere, and divide its Territory, why is the claim to that Territory now made, and so pertinaciously insisted on? We can suggest to ourselves but two motives; either the declaration of relinquishing at some future period a portion of the Country, now contended for, was made to lull suspicious a sleep, and to cover the designs of a secret ambition, or if the thought was seriously entertained, the Lands are now claimed to reap an immediate profit from the Sale.

We are convinced; Policy and Justice require, that a Country, wrested at the commencement of this war, claimed by the British Crown, and ceded to it by the Treaty of Paris, if wrested from the common Enemy by the blood and Treasures of the thirteen States, should be considered as common property, subject to be parcelled out by Congress into free and independent Governments in such manner, and at such times as the wisdom of that Assembly shall hereafter determine.