

17. "*Confession of Political Faith*"

To James Warren

*Grosvenor Square, January 9, 1787*

. . . The appearance of county conventions and their resolutions set me upon throwing together some disquisitions concerning our governments, which are now printed. I will send you a copy of it. Popularity was never my mistress, nor was I ever or shall I ever be a popular man. This book will make me unpopular. But one thing I know, a man must be sensible of the errors of the people, and upon his guard against them, and must run the risk of their displeasure sometimes, or he will never do them any good in the long run. I deliver the book up, to the mercy of a world, that will never show me much mercy, as my confession of political faith. Unpopular as it may be at present, the time will come, after I am dead, when the system of it in general must be adopted, with bitter repentance that it was not heeded sooner. It is much easier to pull down a government in such a conjuncture of affairs as we have seen, than to build up, at such a season as the present. If the Massachusetts can be governed without a total separation of the executive power from the senate, the house, and the people, I am altogether ignorant of the character of that people, and have not made one sound observation upon the history of nations. . . .