

***Connecticut Courant*, 20 November 1786**

There are two parties in this state—jealous of each other; federal men and antifederal. The federal men suppose the anti-federal to be knaves, designing artful demagogues. The anti-federal suppose the federal to be ambitious tyrannical men, who are aiming at power and office at the expence of the people at large.

Particular men, in these classes, may possibly deserve those suspicions; but in general are ill founded surmises. I am acquainted with both and know that most men in both classes are very honest well meaning men, who are aiming at what they supposed to be the public good. But the anti-federal men think as they have been bred—their education has been rather indifferent—they have been accustomed to think on the small scale—they can think no other, without an enlargement of their mind. Besides most of them live remote from the best opportunities of information, the knowledge they acquire is late, and is longer in producing conviction in their minds. Most people wish to do right; when they know it is best they will always do it. Were the anti-federal men in this state to travel, to sit in Congress, to converse with men who understand foreign policy, and with foreign ministers, in short, were they to view this state and the continent in their true connection with other nations, they would think like federal men and join in their measures... The anti-federal men are not generally rogues—the federal men are not generally ambitious—I believe they are equally honest. But people in general are too ignorant to manage affairs which require great reading and an extensive knowledge of foreign nations. This is the misfortune of republican governments.

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