the administration itself deprived of its most powerful support, would
find itself incapable either of offering protection or of maintaining its
authority. Sir, the spirit of liberty is a jealous one—jealous of its se-
curity, as the guardian of its rights against all external invasion.
As the preserver of that national character, which confers on it
a place among the nations of the earth, & the rights & privileges of a
free people, it looks to the military chieftain as the proper person in
whom to confide its fortunes. And it is in accordance with the strict
policy that it should be so. It is to the military chieftain, that we look for
that promptness & decision of character, that promptitude of action,
which should ever distinguish him, who rules the destinies of a nation.
What, Sir, would we venture to be the fate of a government deprived of this
most essential qualification? What Sir, would we ask, has history already
shown us? Its unwary page records in letters of blood its dismal
train of calamity, blood shed & devastation. The tenure of this once
principle, in one man, oftentimes involves his whole country in ruin—
"open the flood-gate of faction & discord, whose swelling
torrent rushes through out the land, impregnating the peace
air of heaven with its baseful & ruin-destroying vapors;
he sees the sacred name of his country, revoluted by it, in-
sulting gods—its ambassadors treated with contiguity—the
sacred principle of treaty violated, and his own citizens
imprest into foreign service. And what Sir, I would
again ask, would have been the condition of our own glori-
ous republic, in those trying times of its, present admin-
istrations, when the brand of infamy was menaced to
be the first patrimon of his age, had not his unwavering
pompleness, curbed him through the conflict, unravel & un-
disguise—his own bright character, render'd more luminis-

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