

A Real Federalist, Poughkeepsie *Country Journal*, 11 March 1788

Mr. Power, The Electors of the County of Dutchess in your last paper, have been addressed by many Anti Federalists, as a certain writer has stiled himself; this writer appears to have supposed himself so closely entrenched within his duplicity, as that his true character might not be discovered, or even suspected; for this purpose he has even been obliged for once to be honest, and to take to himself his proper signature; though my friends those persons among you who are great sticklers for the adoption of the newly proposed Constitution, affect to call themselves *Federalists*, (this gross abuse of which term, as well as ideas, cannot perhaps find a parallel in any case) yet the whole tenor of their conduct tends directly to the annihilation of the *federal league* now in full force in the United States.—This writer's intention is easily discovered, even at first glance; it is manifestly designed to divide you in your suffrages at the ensuing election for members of Convention, he however, could not help showing his Cloven-Foot—when he fantastically observes that we ought to set at naught all consequences, or account them as but dust in the balance, in comparison with our freedom, and that rather than submit ourselves and our posterity to the galling yoke of tyranny—we had better at one stroke subvert the very foundation of the union; this sentiment my friends is by no means applicable to you, and I trust your future conduct will evince to this impostor, and his associates, to their everlasting disappointment, there is still a sufficiency of virtue remaining in a vast majority of the citizens of this county of Dutchess not only, but we trust in the State at large, to refuse the gilded pill proffered in this newly fangled constitution—never a time more proper than the present for the recollection of the motto which the United Netherlands adopted, when they combined to oppose the tyranny and insidious machinations of their public as well as intestine enemies—their ensigns waved as well as lips and hearts pronounced and entertained this sentiment, “Unite or die.”

Poughkeepsie, 7th March, 1788.

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