

A Countryman VI, *New York Journal*, 14 February 1788 (excerpts)

Letters from a Gentleman in Dutchess County to his friend in New-York.

... The Daily Advertiser, of January 17th, contains an extract, which is said to be part of "A letter from the late illustrious president of the general convention, to his friend in Fredricksburgh. Virginia," but which, I do not believe to be his inditing, and for the following reasons:—That, neither the style nor composition, appears to be genuine; besides, several of the expressions are too positive and unguarded for any man of common prudence, and much more so, for a person who has always been considered as eminent for that very qualification.

Had such a thing made its appearance in the course of the war, I believe, that the medium of its origination might have been much more rationally accounted for, than it now appears to be....

But, to return to the extract, in which there are two periods, in the first paragraph, that prove too much (if they prove any thing) and, of course, amount to nothing, unless it be the writer's design. They are these:—"And clear I am, if another federal convention is attempted, that the sentiments of the members will be more discordant, or less accommodating than the last. In fine, they will agree upon no general plan."

Now, if it be *impossible* for all the people of the United States, to form another *single* convention which shall agree upon *any one kind of government* (and is not this the obvious import or meaning of the assertion) I should be glad to learn, how the ingenious contriver of this curious extract expected, that *thirteen*, or even *nine different* conventions should ever agree to adopt the constitution, unless he intended to apply his "ultima ratio" to them?

Of late, I have observed several of these spurious extracts, paragraphs, &c. in the papers; but, as they were either anonymous, or the characters not of much consequence, I thought them unworthy of notice.—In this, I am impelled by duty.

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