

An Elector, *Massachusetts Centinel*, 28 November 1787

To the FREE ELECTORS of this TOWN.

GENTLEMEN, The present is the time of visitation—and happy for us “the things that belong to our” political “salvation,” are not “hidden from our eyes”—They are plain and obvious to every man; and it affords a comfortable prospect to the real friends of America, and the late revolution, that we appear to be sensible that Heaven *now* presents the golden opportunity of establishing such a government as will secure to ourselves and posterity, in all succeeding generations, the blessings of that independence we so dearly purchased.”

Let nothing, therefore, divert your attention from prosecuting the important business before you—be steady, be united and firm—The SAGES and PATRIOTS who were your political *guardians, pilots* and DEFENDERS in the late war, and under Providence brought us in the haven of “peace, liberty and safety,” have again been convened to form a Constitution of government for the States, that shall be the means of *perpetuating* these invaluable acquisitions—THIS CONSTITUTION is now proposed to our serious consideration—and it must afford the highest satisfaction to its ILLUSTRIOUS FRAMERS, to find it is received with so much attention, and general approbation.

The enemies to this system are more scarce than tories were at the meridian of our triumphs, during the war—It is an undoubted fact, that a *very small* number of persons are engaged in the opposition—it is true they are indefatigable in their labours—Confusion and disappointment reward them for their nefarious attempts!—They make a considerable bluster, but their *false alarms* will lose their effects—Some of them are *already* known—whose motives are fully discerned to be no better than those of a thief, who cries, fire! fire! that in the confusion he may plunder the more securely—others will be detected, and when the disclosure is made it will destroy the poisonous effects of their malevolent insinuations.

On the other hand, let us, my friends, attend to the *characters* of those who are uniformly in favour of the proposed Constitution—Among these you find the decided friends to the country, the *tried* patriots of those *trying* “times which *tried* men’s souls:” —The friends of peace, good order and government—the men of property—the men of learning—the sage—the philosopher, and the divine—the forehanded mechanick—the industrious tradesman, and the unembarrassed yeomanry throughout the Commonwealth—in such GOOD COMPANY we are always safe.

Let us then cultivate a spirit of UNION and harmony—let us like men determined to be *wise*, to be *free* and *happy*, under the benign influences of a good government, go to our publick meetings and give our suffrages to such characters as are *competent* to defending and supporting our sentiments upon the proposed Constitution—such as are *inflexibly* determined to advocate this Constitution to the utmost—such as have given *unequivocal* proofs of possessing a NATIONAL spirit—and whose general conduct in *times past*, leaves no room to doubt of their *future* steadiness and consistency. On the present occasion *every* man either IN

OFFICE, or OUT OF OFFICE is eligible—this gives us an advantage—there are doubtless *some* in both predicaments who may be very suitable—this enlarges the sphere of our enquiry—it gives us the fairest opportunity to center the *wisdom*, the *firmness* and the *patriotism* of the Commonwealth, in the approaching Convention—And may the God of our fathers so direct us their posterity on this important occasion, as that we may not fall a prey to the arts of designing and unprincipled men—but may he, by diffusing a spirit of UNION and CANDOUR, PATIENCE and PERSEVERANCE, lead us into the adoption of a wise and efficient NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

EDITOR.

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