

Pennsylvania Gazette, 5 September 1787

The year 1776 is celebrated (says a correspondent) for a revolution in favor of *Liberty*. The year 1787, it is expected, will be celebrated with equal joy, for a revolution in favor of *Government*. The impatience with which all classes of people (a *few* officers of government only excepted) wait to receive the new federal constitution, can only be equalled by their zealous determination to support it.

Every state (adds our correspondent) has its SHAYS, who, either with their pens—or tongues—or offices—are endeavouring to effect what *Shays* attempted in vain with his sword. In one of the states, this demagogue tries to persuade the people that it is dangerous to increase the powers of Congress:—In another, *he* denies the authority of the Convention to redress our national grievances:—In a third, he whispers distrust, saying the states will not adopt the new frame of government:—In a fourth, he says the state constitutions, and the officers who act under them, are of *divine* right, and can be altered by no human power—and of course considers all attempts to restore order and government in the United States as a “*laughable*” thing:—In a fifth, he opposes a *general* confederacy, and urges the division of the states into three smaller confederacies, that he may the more easily place himself at the *head* of one of them. The spirit and wickedness of SHAYS is in each of these principles and measures. Let Americans be wise. Toryism and Shayism are nearly allied. They both lead to slavery, poverty, and misery.

Cite as: The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition, ed. John P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.

Canonic URL: <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/RNCN-03-13-02-0075> [accessed 11 May 2011]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 1