

Cassius VI , *Massachusetts Gazette*, 25 December 1787

To the Inhabitants of this State.

...Article IV. further provides, That the senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States, and of the several states, shall be bound, by oath or affirmation to support this constitution:—but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or publick trust under the United States.—Thus, my fellow citizens, we see that our rulers are to be bound by the most sacred ties, to support our rights and liberties, to secure to us the full enjoyment of every privilege which we can wish for; they are bound by the constitution to guarantee to us a republican form of government in its fullest extent; and what is there more that we can wish for?

Thus the people of the United States, “in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestick tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity,” have appointed a federal convention to “ordain and establish,” with the concurrence of the people, a constitution for the United States of America. That federal convention have assembled together, and after a full investigation of the different concerns of the Union, have proposed a form of government, calculated, to support, and transmit, inviolate, to the latest posterity, all the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

Citizens of Massachusetts! consider, O, consider well these important matters, and weigh them deliberately in the scale of reason! Consider at what a vast expense of toil, difficulty, treasure and blood, you have emancipated yourselves from the yoke of bondage, and established yourselves an independent people! Consider that those immortal characters, who first planned the event of the revolution, and with arms in their hands stepped forth in the glorious cause of human nature, have now devised a plan for supporting your freedom, and increasing your strength, your power and happiness.

Will you, then, O my countrymen! listen to the mad dictates of men, who are aiming, by every artifice and falshood, which the emissaries of hell can invent, to effect your total destruction and overthrow? who wish to ascend the chariot of anarchy, and ride triumphant over your smoking ruins, which they hope to effect, by their more than hellish arts: in your misery they hope to glory, and establish their own greatness “on their country’s ruin.” If they can effect this, they will laugh at your calamity; and mock your misfortunes—the language of each brother in iniquity, when they meet, will be, “hail damn’d associates,” see our high success!

Think, O my countrymen! think, before it is too late!—The important moment approaches, when these states must, by the most wise of all conduct, forever establish their glory and happiness, on the firmest basis, by adopting the constitution, or by the

most foolish and inconsistent of all conduct, in rejecting it, entail on themselves and on their posterity, endless infamy.

*“There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows.”—*

If you embrace not the golden moment now before you, & refuse to receive that which only can establish the dignity of your towering EAGLE, this, and generations yet unborn, will curse, with a *maran-atha* your dying fame, and breathe, with imprecations and just indignation, vengeance and insults on your sleeping ashes!—But should you, on the contrary, with energy and vigour, push your fortune, and, with eagerness and gratitude, clasp to your arms this great blessing which Heaven has pointed to your view, posterity, made happy by your wisdom and exertions, will honour and revere your memories. Secure in their prosperity, they will weep for joy, that Heaven had given them—FATHERS!

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