

Conciliator, 16 February 1788

For the daily patriotick Register

Mr. Printer—

I am very happy to find, since the Ratification of the proposed Constitution, and the amendments recommended by the Convention of the State of Massachusetts, has been published, that many of the *cool* and *dispassionate* Citizens, but who have the welfare and happiness of their Country as much at heart, as the more ardent of either Party, are satisfied, that if the States, who are yet to determine on the important Question of the new Constitution, would take it up in a cool and deliberate manner, and make such *further* amendments as shall appear requisite and proper, and that their adoption, by the first Congress under the new Government be a condition in their Ratification, a very great majority of the People would feel themselves happy under the operation of the Government.

The great objects of national Concern, allowed by all, requisite for the due administration of the federal Government, to wit, the *Impost* and *general regulation of Commercial Matters*, being, generally, agreed on as proper and expedient to be vested in Congress, it is imagined that the *warm Partizans* in favour of the new System, will consent to relax a little, and meet their Brethren, who happen, altho' with *honest* intentions, to differ from them on some points, which they think not properly *secured* or *guarded* in the Constitution, on the ground of *Conciliation*, and as it is not the lot of mortals to think altogether alike in common concerns, much more on such an *important* one, as that of a *new form of Government*, it is expected that they will join their endeavours with those last mentioned, to recommend conciliating sentiments on the principle of *amendments* to the new Constitution, by which means, it is highly probable, that *anarchy* and *confusion* may be prevented, and *liberty, peace* and *happiness*, continued to the United States.

The Situation of the States is now truly *critical* and highly *dangerous*, and nothing but *wise* and *temperate* measures will restore *confidence* between a very *respectable* number of Citizens, as well of this State, as many others in the Union, if not all, who differ in Sentiment on the Government in Question; it is therefore fervently to be wished, that some able and dispassionate Persons would come forward and convince both the advocates and opposers of the new System, of the absolute necessity and propriety of conciliation, on the important Subject. The writer of this, conscious of being actuated by the noblest motive, the good of his Country, will feel himself very happy, if he should be the means of inducing some one, more competent to the task of taking up this Subject in a more masterly and convincing manner, than he has done.—

1. The draft of this unpublished essay, addressed to the printer of the *New York Journal*, is in the handwriting of Charles Tillinghast—John Lamb's son-in-law and sometime secretary. The docketing—"Conciliator/Feby 16. 1788."—is in someone else's handwriting.

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