Publicola, Boston American Herald, 30 June 1787

Mr. Powars,

GIVE me leave to transcribe for your paper some observations from Mr. Adams's much admired book on the American Republics; which I think, externely applicable to our present situation in this State.

"The truth is, says this sagacious observer, that the PEOPLE have ever governed in America :-- All the weight of the royal Governours and Councils, even backed with fleets and armies, have never been able to get the advantage of them ;-- who have always stood by the Houses of Representatives; and carried all their points; and no Governour ever stood against a representative assembly :-- As long as he governed by their advice, he was happy; as soon as he differed from them, he was wretched, and soon obliged to retire."

The absurd idea that MANY appear to have adopted, that the influence of the people should be lessened; or that in fact they cannot be trusted with their own liberty, is not only contradicted by the history of this State, but is equally repugnant to that of every other...

...But the people do not THINK it will be said, and of course, are only fit to be governed by a "wise and discerning minority."—This is the unsubstantial diet on which pride flattens itself—This is the incense which arrogance daily offers to the object of its own idolatry. It is truly pleasant to see a small part of society arrogating the right of directing the rest at pleasure; and paying such a ridiculous compliment to their own sagacity, as if they were the only persons who were fit to govern, while they modestly pretend that the remainder of the community repose implicit confidence in their wisdom. The generality of the people are seldom intoxicated by abstract political speculation, but they have a standard infinitely more unerring, in their feelings, which are seldom wrong...