

“O” Massachusetts Centinel, 8 December 1787

FEDERALISM.

An old Dervise met once, a French Missionary, who being desirous to convert the Musulman, entered with him into a conversation about religion.—He displayed all his eloquence, and made an exposition of such reasons as in *his* mind were true and strong evidences; then permitted the Dervise to make his answer.—Firm in his belief and high spirited for proselytism, the disciple of Bectachi¹ looking at his antagonist’s reasoning as founded on mere absurdities, tried to unblind him by an explanation of the Koran’s doctrine—clear and concluding, he thought—After many replies on both sides, they left one another. “*God be blessed,*” said, when he was going, the old Dervise, “*I have converted that honest priest.*” “*Great are thy ways, O Lord,*” cried the Missionary, “*that good Dervise is at the door of Paradise; to-morrow, washing his head with baptism’s salutary waters, I will open it to him.*”

What do you conclude of that old story, said I to Mr. Esopus.—What, Mr. Breakenglish! We shall have the new constitution.—Strange conclusion, indeed, said I.—Not so very strange, Sir—the writings of the federalists and the antifederalists shall meet the same success with the dervise’s and the priest’s dispute. But happily for the cause, sensible of our critical position, two thirds of our fellow citizens, were in favour of a new system before that proposed by the federal convention appeared, and since it has been submitted to the people’s examination, they have found no reason to alter their mind.

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