

## One of the Nobility, *New York Journal*, 12 December 1787

Mr. Greenleaf, I request you to publish the following political creed of every patriotic Fœderalist. Every person that peruses it, must instantaneously acknowledge its liberality, reasonableness, and regard for the rights of the people. I have the vanity to think, that, like an axiom, it must no sooner be read, than agreed to—and that it is, in itself, sufficient to overthrow all the objections alledged against our new liberal constitution, by Brutus, Cato, the Centinel, Old Whig, and other ragamuffin, reprobate, impudent, and rascally quill-driving scribblers. Contractedness in sentiment, is reprehensible in an individual, and highly disgraceful to a people. My fellow citizens, consequently, cannot shew greater prudence, generosity, and benevolence, than in freely trusting, without any restrictions, to their rulers, liberties which they are themselves incapable of protecting; their governors will then be so pierced with gratitude for such generous favors, that they will strain every nerve to promote the felicity of their benefactors. Who would wish to restrain the powers of his friend? and what people in their senses, would curb the authority of their greatest friends—the administrators of their government? Venice was formerly a democracy, but the people acted very wisely, in committing the management of their affairs, without the least controul, to the hands of the *well-born* and opulent—they, by this excellent and truly prudential conduct, became very formidable and powerful, and are, at this day, in the actual possession of more freedom and happiness than any nation whatever.

Although, sir, I am *well-born*, and expect to be honored with a considerable office, when the new establishment takes place, yet you may rest assured of my real disinterestedness when I assert, that the proposed government ought to be universally adopted without the least hesitation, examination, alteration, or amendment. Horace, was unquestionably a wise man, and he observes—

*Odi profanum vulgus, & arces.*

Have not our patriotic conventioners imitated his example, in constructing a constitution, which effectually expels the *nobility* from public offices? Let the *farmer*, the *merchant*, and the *mechanic*, reflect, if they are chosen to any dignified stations, that their farms and stores must suffer, and their tools grow rusty.

The great mass of the people are in a state of brutal ignorance, incapable of forming a rational idea—guided wholly by instinct—destitute of sensibility, and all the exalted virtues—mere *orang outangs*—blockheads, numskulls, asses, monkeys, sheep, owls, and lobsters—and only created to be subservient to the pleasures and interest of their superiors—they have no business to intermeddle with politics—if they can scrape together money enough to pay their taxes, they ought to be satisfied: all the offices of government are, by the laws of nature, appropriated to *men of family, fortune and genius*. I have ten thousand more equally as incontestible arguments to add, but an impudent taylor has interrupted my further writing by his impertinent solicitations. When I am appointed under the new government, the scoundrel shall repent his insolence. However, I cannot conclude, sir, without giving you a word of advice, as I am disposed to befriend you. I have observed several Republican or Anti-Fœderal pieces in

your paper, which, certainly, exposes you to danger, and, if the new constitution takes place, your cars are in a very precarious situation. Follow my advice, and refrain for the future, and I promise you the office of Printer to the Congress.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, One of the Nobility.

#### Political Creed of every Fœderalist.

I believe in the infallibility, all sufficient wisdom, and infinite goodness of the late convention; or, in other words, I believe that some men are of so perfect a nature, that it is absolutely impossible for them to commit error, or design villainy.

I believe that the great body of the people are incapable of judging in their nearest concerns, and that, therefore, they ought to be guided by the opinions of their superiors.

I believe that it is totally unnecessary to secure the rights of mankind in the formation of a constitution.

I believe that aristocracy is the best form of government.

I believe that the people of America are cowards and unable to defend themselves, and that, consequently, standing armies are absolutely necessary.

I believe that the trial by jury, and the freedom of the press ought to be exploded from every wise government.

I believe that the new constitution will not affect the state constitutions, yet that the state officers will oppose it, because it will abridge their power.

I believe that the new constitution will prove the bulwark of liberty—the balm of misery—the essence of justice, and the astonishment of all mankind. In short, I believe (in the words of that inimitable reasoner, Attorney Wilson) that it is the best form of government which has ever been offered to the world.

I believe, that to speak, write, read, think, or bear any thing against the proposed government, is damnable heresy, execrable rebellion, and high treason against the sovereign majesty of the convention—And lastly, I believe that every person, who differs from me in belief, is an infernal villain. AMEN.

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