

Resolutions of the Tradesmen of Boston, *Massachusetts Gazette*, 8 January 1788

Resolutions of the TRADESMEN of the TOWN of BOSTON.

Boston, January 7, 1787 [1788].

AGREEABLE to an advertisement inserted in the papers of this day, the TRADESMEN of this town convened at Mason's-hall, Green Dragon, when John Lucas, Esquire, Paul Revere, Esquire, and Mr. Benjamin Russell, were chosen to draft certain resolutions, expressive of the sense of this body. The committee, after having retired for that purpose, returned, and reported the following—which, being read, was UNANIMOUSLY accepted, and ordered to be printed in the several publick papers—viz.

WHEREAS some persons, intending to injure the reputation of the tradesmen of this town, have asserted, that they were unfriendly and adverse to the adoption of the constitution of the United States of America, as proposed on the 17th September last, by the Convention of the United States assembled in Philadelphia: Therefore, to manifest the falsehood of such assertions, and to discover to the world our sentiments of the proposed frame of government,

Be it RESOLVED,

1. THAT such assertions are false and groundless; and it is the sense of this body, that all those, who propagate such reports, have no other view than the injury of our reputation, in the attainment of their own wicked purposes, on base and false grounds.
2. THAT, in the judgment of this body, the proposed frame of government, is well calculated to secure the liberties, protect the property, and guard the rights of the citizens of America; and it is our warmest wish and prayer that the same should be adopted by this commonwealth.
3. THAT, it is our opinion, if said constitution should be adopted by the United States of America, trade and navigation will revive and increase, employ and subsistence will be afforded to many of our townsmen, who are now suffering from want of the necessaries of life; that it will promote industry and morality; render us respectable as a nation; and procure us all the blessings to which we are entitled from the natural wealth of our country; our capacity for improvement, from our industry, our freedom and independence.
4. THAT it is the sense of this body, that if the proposed frame of government should be rejected, the small remains of commerce yet left us, will be annihilated, the various trades and handicrafts dependent thereon, must decay; our poor will be increased, and many of our worthy and skilful mechanicks compelled to seek employ and subsistence in strange lands.
5. THAT, in the late election of delegates to represent this town in Convention, it was our design, and the opinion of this body, the design of every good man in town, to elect such men, and such only, as would exert their utmost ability to promote the adoption of the proposed

frame of government in all its parts, without any conditions, pretended amendments, or alterations whatever: and that such, and such only, will truly represent the feelings, wishes, and desires of their constituents: and if any of the delegates of this town should oppose the adoption of said frame of government in gross, or under pretence of making amendments, or alterations of any kind, or of annexing conditions to their acceptance, such delegate or delegates will act contrary to their best interest, the strongest feelings, and warmest wishes of the Tradesmen of the town of Boston.

Per order

JOHN LUCAS.

After the above resolutions were passed, John Lucas, Esq. Mr. Joseph Clark, Paul Revere, Esq. Mr. Rhodes, Mr. William Boardman, Joshua Witherlee, Esq. and Captain David Spear, were appointed a standing-committee, to notify a meeting of the Tradesmen of this town in future. After which the meeting was dissolved.

It was with pleasure, says a correspondent, he observed the perfect order, unanimity, and intelligence, that pervaded the body of respectable Tradesmen which met last evening at the Green-Dragon. Notwithstanding the number exceeded three hundred and eighty, as appeared by an enumeration made at the time of their retiring from the Hall, as much regularity and propriety were discovered throughout all their proceedings, and deliberations, as ever were observed in any legislative body.

Massachusetts Centinel, 9 January 1788

The TRADESMEN and MECHANICKS of the town of Boston, have always manifested their attachment to the principles of the Revolution—with steadiness and perseverance they pursued the prize of Independence—that object obtained, they have patiently, though anxiously, waited for the blessings of good government; that those happy scenes which they were led to anticipate from the success which crowned the arms of America, might be realized:—From the first appointment of the late Continental Convention, they looked up to that honourable Body, as to the *enlightened* and *distinguished patriots* of their country, from whose deliberations and decisions they had EVERY THING to hope—nor have they been disappointed.—The CONSTITUTION which they have proposed to the UNITED STATES, they consider as the result of much wisdom, candour, and those mutual concessions, without which America cannot expect ever to harmonize in any system of COMMERCE or GOVERNMENT.

Proceedings of the TRADESMEN of the town of BOSTON.

The enemies to good government, finding that their flimsy arguments against the new constitution would avail nothing, when opposed by the fair arguments of reason and common sense, adopted a new falacy to injure the system proposed, by asserting that the democrattick part of the community, viz. the Tradesmen of the seaports, and OUR BRETHREN the Yeomen of the

country were opposed to its adoption—Certain of the falsity of such reports as far as they respected the Tradesmen of this town, and feeling their reputations hurt thereby, a number of Tradesmen met, and agreed to request a general meeting of their brethren on Monday evening, at the Green-Dragon, in order that their opinions might be had on the subject.—Accordingly advertisements for that purpose were inserted in the papers of Monday last.—At about six o'clock, near four hundred of the most respectable *real* Tradesmen of this town—men who obtain their support from the sweat of their brow, and the labour of their hands—men who are constantly employed in the hive of the Commonwealth for their own subsistence and the dignity of the state, met at the Green-Dragon—when the subsequent spirited and patriotick proceedings took place. Although convened together at a short notice, and forming a large body when met, the whole business was conducted with as much propriety and regularity, we venture to say, as ever marked the proceedings of the best organized and well regulated assembly whatever. The proceedings follow.

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