

## Lycurgus, Providence *United States Chronicle*, 3 April 1788

Mr. WHEELER, *Please to give the following a Place in your impartial Chronicle, and you will oblige a Number of your Readers.*

To the patriotic REPUBLICANS of the State of RHODE-ISLAND, &c.

*Remember, O my Friends! the laws, the rights,  
The gen'rous plan of power, deliver'd down  
From age to age, by your renown'd forefathers,  
So dearly bought, the price of so much blood.—  
O! let them never perish in your hands,  
But piously transmit them to your children.—Addis.*

*Friends and Countrymen*, Be united, be firm, and resolutely persevere in the just, the noble, and righteous cause of humanity, which you have so happily undertaken, and deliver your deserving country from the impending ruin with which it is threatened, and your names shall be handed down with unsullied praise and glory to the latest ages of posterity; whilst your enemies, the speculators, extortioners, usurers, false friends, and the whole tribe of hypocrites, shall sink unnoticed in the arms of death, "*there let them rest, if rest they there can find.*" This, my countrymen, is a momentous æra, big with the fate of millions yet unborn;— behold the full tide of corruption, scurrility and abuse, comes pouring in from the sons of Molech, Belial and Mammon,<sup>2</sup> who have dipped their pens in gall, and nightly work iniquity—

*"Immortal, unimpair'd, they rear their head,  
And damn alike the living and the dead."*

Observe the Landholder No. 12, in the *Chronicle* of the 27th instant, the author of that infamous piece has put off his mask, and like one of Milton's devils declares for open war, and says, "*of wiles more unexpert I boast not,*" but "*rather choose, armed with hell-flames and fury, all at once o'er*" liberty's "*high towers to force resistless way;*"—this man surely is in his last agonies—he must soon account for the public money he unjustly holds in his hands, or procure the adoption of the new Constitution; despairing of this, and being apprehensive that justice will soon overtake him, has mistaken his mark, and in a fit of canine madness levelled his blasphemous production at the patriotic majority of this devoted State;—I shall only say to him, what was applied to a character not an hundredth part so infamous:—

*"Be wicked as thou wilt, do all that's base;  
Proclaim thyself the monster of thy race,"*

Now, while I am speaking of the abominations of the ungodly, I cannot forbear mentioning a couple of little paltry rogues, who as panders to the more important ones, have been pushed into public contempt— the first in a piece dated at Cumberland,

appeared in the Chronicle of the 20th instant—the latter in the Newport Herald of the same date;—these blotters and profaners of paper, are endeavouring to cast the odium justly due to them and their party, upon the Quakers; and to draw them in to be a party against the present administration: This is an artful finesse, and if they do not extricate themselves from the snare, it may operate to their disadvantage, especially against those who were immediately concerned in drafting and presenting the petition.— I hope and expect the Quakers have more sense and honesty, than to be drawn in as tools in the hands of a party, to serve their wicked purposes.—I am well assured, there are a large majority of that society, who view that petition with a jealous eye, and think it calculated to serve unrighteous purposes.—The Quakers will most certainly stand or fall with the yeomanry of the State.

Why all this bustle, this mighty exertion to annul the Tender and Limitation Acts?— Answer me, ye speculators, extortioners, usurers, jugglers, and false friends;—answer me, ye whining, canting, office-hunting, aristocratic blockheads—or I will tell the world of your knavery— *“Cease then your guilty rage ye wayward sons.”* Stand firmly upon your guard, my noble friends and countrymen—be not deceived—this is a critical moment—the Limitation-Act is the touchstone of your political existence—repeal this, and your cause is lost, and your country ruined: Every man who has taken the money for his public securities, or private debts, took it with a full assurance, that the General Assembly would support and maintain the laws in favour of it, with an uniform stability; and upon that ground only the money now circulates;—it is true they have hitherto acted uniform and just, but should they repeal or alter any law on which the credit of the money resteth, they would be highly culpable; for it would be the height of injustice after depreciating it by law, to force one part of the community to receive it, whilst they screen the other from it.—If the money has depreciated, it is entirely owing to the opposition it has received from those very men who are now striving to give it a fatal stab, by repealing or altering the Limitation- Act;—this act they very justly look upon as the corner-stone of the temple of freedom, and could they remove it, the structure would totter to its foundation—a repeal of the Tender-Law would soon follow, and then our money and our freedom would perish together, *“and like the baseless fabric of a vision leave not a trace behind.”*

Have we not reason to be alarmed, and surprized to see *ten* members coming from the *two* towns of Newport and Providence, with instructions to use their influence for effecting the ruin of the money;— what, in the name of common sense, do these men mean to trample on the laws and authority, and arrogate to themselves the government of the State?—they already have their emissaries in almost every town, who by their false insinuations are endeavouring to deceive the unsuspecting people into a compliance with their hypocritical petition. Look round and see who advocates this petition—will you not find them to be favourers of arbitrary measures, and opposers of the present administration; and such who have been bought and sold from side to side, with mere *dung*; and those who live on other people’s land, dupes to their haughty land-lords— these, my countrymen, are the expiring struggles of tyranny, villany and oppression; the enemies to freedom, liberty and justice are in their last agonies.—Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith you are made free, for it is written, *“he who continueth to the end*

*shall be saved;*" but, my friends, if you look back you may expect the fate of Lot's wife; though, instead of being a pillar of salt you would be transmuted to a group of servile slaves.

P. S. To inquisitive author-hunters.—

*Having a circuit travell'd round,*

*I now declare myself in town;—*

*When I came here,—for what,—or how,*

*It matters not—to tell you now.*

*Providence, 31st March, 1788.*

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