

The Landholder X, *Connecticut Courant*, 3 March 1788 (excerpt)

To the CITIZENS of NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

There are certain critical periods in which nations as well individuals, who have fallen into perplexity, by a wise exertion may save themselves and be glorious.—Such is the present æra in American policy; but if we do not see the hour of our salvation, there is no reason to expect that Heaven will repeat it.—The unexpected harmony of the Federal Convention—their mutual condescension in the reconcilment of jarring interests and opposing claims between the several states—the formation of a system so efficient in appearance, and at the same time, so well guarded against an oppression of the subject—the concurring sentiments of a vast majority through the United States, of those persons who have been most experienced in policy and most eminent in wisdom and virtue, are events which must be attributed to the special influence of Heaven.

To be jealous for our liberties is lawful, but jealousy in excess is a delirium of the imagination by no means favourable to liberty. If you would be free and happy a power must be created to protect your persons and properties; otherwise you are slaves to all mankind....

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