

Elbridge Gerry to James Warren, New York, 18 October 1787

I expected e'er this to have been in Massachusetts but am detained here longer than I expected—I inclose some papers on the subject of the Constitution to be reprinted if you think it convenient. I know not who the authors are of the anonymous peices & it is a Matter of no consequence to the public, the Sentiments are in many respects just, my opinion with respect to the proposed constitution, is, that if adopted it will lay the foundation of a Government of *force & fraud*, that the people will bleed with taxes at every pore, & that the existence of their liberties will soon be terminated, the wealth of the Continent will be collected in Pennsylvania, where the Seat of the Fœderal Government is proposed to be, & those who will use the greatest address in obtaining an acceptance of this despotic System, will hereafter scourge the people for their folly in adopting it.

I shall submit on my return, or by Letter, if I should not leave this City in a few Days, my Reasons to the legislature for dissenting from the Convention, & shall write them by post a short Letter to this effect—

P.S. As the object of the Supporters of the Constitution, is to carry it thro by Surprize, it is hoped that the Legislature of Massachusetts will not propose a Convention till the next Session, & thus give to the people an opportunity to consider of the Constitution before they are called on to adopt it—Colo R H Lee informs me, the Judges, all the Bar, & ~~some~~ many of the principal Gentlemen of Virginia are high against this System—

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