

Anarch, *Newport Herald*, 7 February 1788

EDICT of PENANCE,

By ANARCH,

Emperor of the East and of the West, of the North and of the South, the Puissant Monarch of Disorder, and Prime Defender of Fraud, Injustice, &c. &c.

The Great Emperor finding that his plans to overturn the rising republics of America, have hitherto proved abortive—that his General and his legions have been discomfited and driven to the wilds of the North—that his good friends the patrons of depreciated paper, are appalled at the opposition to their system—and that his beloved sons the antifederalists, are borne down by the weight of large majorities,—Therefore, to appease the anger of his *Satanic Devilship*, that dissensions may once more extend her wings for a *Shays* to resume the hatchet, that the eyes of the illumined may be again enfilmed as to catch at the delusive *sign of money*, and that jealousies may pervade the States, as to induce them to smother the NEW CONSTITUTION in infancy—His Anarchial Majesty DOTH ORDER, that on the first day of April next, his Generals, his Lawgivers, his Judiciaries, his Pamphleteers, and all other officers and subjects under his sceptre, do clad themselves in penitential habits, and assemble in some public place within their respective districts, at the sound of discordant Instruments, Yells and Lamentations, with cast-down eyes and unshorn beards, rending their garbs and scattering ashes in the air,—His Majesty *doth further order*, that upon the aforesaid day, when the sun is turned the meridian, they shall make a general procession in the following solemn order, through the chief streets and squares of the city or town where they shall thus assemble.

First. The penitential march shall be preceded by three coffins covered with black, and emblazoned with devices emblematical of the respective orders of *Antifederalists*, *Paper-moneyites* and *Insurgents*, and borne by a band of Jack-Ketches² in the habits of office.

In the first coffin shall be deposited Seceders Address, Pamphlets, anonymous Publications, and Paragraphs against the NEW CONSTITUTION, wrapt in an ass's skin, with this label on it—*Nostri est Farrago libelli.*³

Device—The rising sun half hidden in a cloud—a flock of vultures hovering over a convalescent eagle that is dormant, preparing to destroy with their beaks his renovated constitution.

Motto—*Occulo vigilante quiescit.*⁴

In the second shall be deposited R. I. Paper-money, Emission-Act, Statute Limitation, Know Ye's, and Bills in Equity.

Device—A falling Bubble.

Motto—*In Te Diabolo Speramus.*⁵

In the third shall be deposited the withered Boughs, edgeless Swords, pointless Bayonets, lockless Guns, tattered Colors, and martyred Sculls of our late flying army.

Device—A ruined Village—a Wilderness—and a Gallows.

Motto—*Cursu brevi.*⁶

Second. The chiefs of these respective orders, mounted reversely on lame and hacknied asses, holding their tails with their teeth, rending their garments, and scourging

their bodies with cords—deploring with a lamentable cadence the fatal miscarriage of their measures.

Third. The rest of the officers, civil and military, partizans and their agents, without their insignias or robes of office, without sandals or caps, with asses ears, shall draw on the ground the entrails of unclean beasts to diffuse an unsalubrious order, and cloud the air with dust, and shall immolate three asses and three swine, and wallow in the mire.

Fourth. The inveigled and deluded multitude, naked from their breast upwards, shall march on the flanks of the second and third column, pelting them with addled eggs and animal excrement, crying aloud at fixed intervals, *Pardon us, since we do it for your good.*

Fifth. The Emperor's Grand Almoner will distribute a chest of *R. I. Paper Money* for the people, but it shall not be taken up until this penitential day is closed on pain of being empaled alive.

Sixth. Detachments from the Emperor's guard will close this solemn procession, with drawn sabres to instantly execute any of his officers or subjects who shall not perform this penance, their bodies shall be cast to the dogs, and their bones remain unburied.

Thus orders the Grand Emperor, ANARCH.

1. Reprinted: *New Haven Gazette*, 21 February; *New Hampshire Mercury*, 27 February; Exeter, N.H., *Freeman's Oracle*, 29 February.
2. "An appellation for the common executioner or hangman." John Ketch (d. 1686) was an English executioner noted for excessive brutality.
3. Juvenal, *Satires*, I, 86: Hodgepodge is our pamphlet.
4. Latin: It became quiet.
5. Latin: In you devil, we place our trust.
6. Latin: A short speech.

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