Wat Tyler, A Proclamation, *Pennsylvania Herald*, 24 October 1787

WHEREAS it hath been represented unto us that many evil disposed men, enemies to our person and authority, have, after great deliberation, devised, and do with strong reason and persuasion recommend unto the people of these states a certain plan or frame of government, evidently calculated to subvert the antient principles of our administration, and to introduce the odious doctrines of national power, honor, and respectability: AND WHEREAS it is the interest and duty of all our true and faithful subjects and friends to oppose, counteract, and defeat this dangerous and diabolical innovation upon the anarchy of our dominion, THEREFORE we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our dearly beloved Cousins Jack Straw, Daniel Shays, and John Franklin; to issue this our vagrant proclamation, requiring and commanding all and every of our subjects and friends aforesaid, and more especially such of them as are judges, counsellors, accomptants, constables, and public officers of every denomination, to be zealous and vigilant in their efforts to undermine and destroy the baneful system which has been projected as aforesaid. And in our great anxiety for the preservation of those rights and privileges which have ever been held sacred by the freest of all commonwealths, a mob, we earnestly recommend to as many of our learned subjects as have acquired the art or mystery of writing, the necessary task of depreciating, traducing, and defaming: for, as the silly prejudice with which men regard a virtuous character is apt to make them value the action for the sake of the agent, it will be in vain to attempt the destruction of this iniquitous work, till it is proved, at least, that the authors were fools and dotards, who did not understand, or knaves and traitors who would not promote, the welfare of their country. Having then, neither spared age for its wisdom, or patriotism for its worth, it is our will and pleasure that our most clamorous subjects do proceed, in the next place, to the natural resources of our domination, and oppose to the inglorious dictates of truth and reason, the inexhaustible artillery of impudent assertion and daring falsehood. Let it be remembered that few men comprehend the science of government, and that, destitute of judgment, the people are only to be influenced by their passions. Hence arises the expediency of resorting to sound instead of sense; and of bewildering the imagination with visionary terrors, instead of instructing the understanding with rational disquisition, or candid interpretation. It is well known to most of our faithful subjects, that in former times a text of scripture, dexterously quoted, has inflamed the minds of mankind to the most frantic enthusiasm; and our affectionate and illustrious servant, Lord George Gordon has lately demonstrated, that the stalking horse of religion may yet be exercised with excellent advantage in the cause of tumult and sedition. We do therefore, above all, recommend to our well disposed and industrious adherents, the selection of such phrases and sentences as have hitherto excited popular admiration; and that, without regard to the natural correspondence of causes and effects the destruction of the rights and liberties of the nation be inferred, from the means which are employed to secure and preserve them. Thus it may be argued, that because no power is given by the projected plan to control the freedom of the press, therefore the projected plan is calculated to destroy the freedom of the press: because the federal representation of the people will possess the power to declare in what civil cases the trial shall be by jury, therefore the trial by jury is abolished in all civil cases: because the power of raising troops for the national protection and defence is delegated to the Congress of the United States, therefore the people, and Congress who are a part of the people, will be butchered and
enslaved by a standing army: because the several state governments are, from time to time, and at all times to elect and appoint persons to fill the offices of the federal government, therefore the several state governments must be eventually annihilated—with many other similar propositions as fairly and as conclusively deduced from their respective premises.

With these instructions, and confiding in the zeal, faith, and perseverance of our liege subjects, and of all men who know how to estimate the blessings of anarchy and licentiousness, and who wisely prefer their own temporary interests, to the permanent welfare of the public, we earnestly commend you to the countenance and support of the great father of all sedition, whose triumph over harmony and peace has established an everlasting kingdom.

DONE at our CABBIN at TIOGA on the 5th day of November (being the anniversary of the fatal discovery of the glorious gun powder plot) annoque domini, 1787.

Test:

JACK CADE.

MAT. TYLER.

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