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A Farmer

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TO THE TOWN OF BOSTON.

I have no talent at writing, and therefore seldom attempt it—I think for my self, and always contend that I have an undeniable right to do it, and I consider the man who disguises his sentiments for fear, or favour, to be a disgrace to his specie.

In the resolutions of your Mechanics of the 7th January, 1788, they have given their opinion, that the proposed Constitution “is well calculated to secure the liberty, protect the property, and guard the rights of the citizens of America.” In other resolves, they say, it *will encrease trade, gain them employ and subsistence, and that the rejecting of it will have a contrary effect*.—If their first resolve is founded in truth, they had no need to have said more about it; for that contains full reason for its acceptance;—but if the first is wrong, the other considerations are as unmanly, and as much opposed to true patriotism, as their urging, that a man, merely because the Town of Boston has elected him, shall hold up his hand to establish a system, though his conscience may tell him that it is a dangerous tyranny. If such politicians are wanted, GOD knows that they are too plenty. But I doubt much whether they have carefully examined the Constitution.—The hypothesis, that General Washington and Dr. Franklin made it, is too strong an argument in the minds of too many, to suffer them to examine, like Freemen, for themselves—They have not, perhaps, considered, that Congress having a right to levy all imposts and excises, and tax all persons, and all the property of the people, necessarily an[n]ihilates all the government over the states, and establishes one entire government over the whole;—that there never can be two several separte sovereign powers, holding a controul over the same persons, and the same property at the same time: one must be in subordination to the other. Surely the power of the United States, will never be in subordinate to this Commonwealth, then who is to tax you? a House of Representatives, at three hundred miles distance from you, chosen for two years, and a Senate at the same place, chosen for six years; but it is said they are to lay no greater burdens on you, than they bear themselves;—but by setting their own wages, and establishing their own emoluments, they may ease themselves of what may oppress you; that the Supreme Judicial of Congress, will swallow up every other Court, or bring them under its power; because there can never be two separte Supreme Judicials in the same government;—here then, we are to be a Consolidated Government, and yet the Judges have power to try civil causes, without a Jury.—Do the Tradesmen of Boston mean all this? They surely do not—then if they mean only to have Congress to

possess the Controul of Commerce—and to raise a Revenue from it, they will answer all the purposes proposed in their Resolves, and by uniting to accept the Constitution with amendments, they may save their Country's Liberty.

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