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Freeman's Journal, Philadelphia

The *Freeman's Journal* was published in Philadelphia on Wednesdays by Francis Bailey (c. 1735–1815). Despite its motto of “open to all parties, but influenced by none,” the *Journal* was the highly partisan organ of Pennsylvania’s Constitutionalist Party. In the spring and summer of 1787, Bailey published several original articles recommending a limited increase in the powers of Congress. He also printed items attacking those states that opposed federal measures. But, in late August 1787, Bailey apparently became skeptical about the Convention. On 22 August he reprinted an item warning the people to safeguard their rights in any change of government. A week later Bailey published a short article questioning the Convention’s ability to solve America’s problems.

After the Convention adjourned, Bailey printed the first major attack on the Constitution and continued to fill the *Journal* with Antifederalist essays such as those by “Centinel” and “Philadelphiensis.” The *Journal* also defended the state’s Antifederalists and castigated its Federalists. It was probably the most partisan Antifederalist newspaper in America.

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