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Benjamin Lincoln to Theodore Sedgwick Boston, 7 September 1788 (excerpts)

. . . We are anxious here that any reasonable crises which makes it indefensible to defer an organization of the new government to so late a period—we must however submit for there are so many circumstances constantly turning up and so many different interests to be reconciled that much time must be expended in adjusting them we should therefore be quiet though it is difficult to keep all so.—

I am sorry that North Carolina has rejected the constitution—I cannot feel on the occasion as you do—I am very apprehensive, soldiers may have apprehensions but no fears, that the Anties in Virginia will find aid and support by their brethren in North Carolina besides I think it will have its influence in calling the general convention proposed by New York—may Heaven avert the design—Rhode Island that little trollop of a sister, will take support be flattered in her wickedness and encouraged in her obstinacy. . . .

Truly we cannot think seriously of calling a convention it is a measure of all others to be dreaded—When you say we are pledged not to oppose who do you mean by *We* not surely the *State* that must and I think will oppose and contend earnestly in support of the opposite side of the question—If this measure should take place I shall in that moment bid adieu to those pleasing prospects which I have embraced with so much real satisfaction for months past. Do not let us procrastinate let us begin as soon as possible to secure ourselves as far as we have proceeded—Would you not think it a very laughable circumstance should a number of Gardners in possession of the most valuable plants, plants necessary to be cultivated for the very existance of the proprietor quarrel so long respecting that part of the Garden in which they should be cultivated and so finally as to omit the care of them and in the mean while, the goats should enter and devour them.

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