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A Word to the Wise

Pennsylvania Mercury, 13 September 1788

To the Electors of Pennsylvania.

The enemies of the new constitution having failed in their attempts to prevent its establishment, are now busily employed in endeavoring to *overset* it in a constitutional way.—For this purpose they have held an electionering conference at Harrisburgh, the design of which is to fill all the elective posts of the state and federal government with anti-federal characters. It becomes the friends of the constitution to *keep a good look-out*, and thereby prevent any such persons from seizing the helm of our fœderal barque, in order to run her ashore within sight of the port of liberty and safety.—The times are difficult and critical. Let the wisest and best men, therefore, be fixed upon to compose our representatives in Congress, and in the assembly. It is not enough that they should be men of integrity and fair characters. They should be men of abilities, and perfectly acquainted with the principles of government. They should understand, in a particular manner, the *place* and *use* of every peg in the Fœderal Constitution. Such men will never be imposed upon or surprised by *side motions* or resolves in favor of amendments, which, in the present state of this country, cannot fail of involving us in ruin.

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