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Philadelphia Federal Gazette, 9 October 1788

The insidious efforts of the anti-federalists, to prevent the adoption of the new constitution, having failed of success, they have now altered their plan, and are applying their strength to secretly undermine what they could not openly and fairly destroy. All their endeavours are now concentrated in the election of federal representatives, in hopes, that by introducing into that eminent body, men who may impede its operations and disgrace its character, by their utter incapacity in some instances, or by their concealed treacheries and artful combinations in others; the government may become inefficient, or at least unpopular in its out-set; and the people consent to relapse into their former systems of weakness, poverty and domestic tyranny—systems in which the leaders of the few remaining anti-federalists naturally delight, as affording means of supporting that ascendancy which the possession of the best offices and emoluments of the state affords.

There is something in this plan so base and contemptible, that the indignation of every honest elector must rise against it. It is like applying to poison when the generous weapons have failed. It is worse than the *Machiavelian* policy with which the scribes of the party have affected to designate the conduct of the friends to American prosperity. It is the true dark and deadly system of the two *Borgias*, who were accustomed to make a feeble attack, in order that by a feigned reconciliation, their adversaries, disarmed of suspicion, might be secretly and safely destroyed.

The meeting at Harrisburg, the affected protestations of submission to the government, are their feigned reconciliation; the proposed amendments, the terms of the fictitious treaty. It is as clear as any thing in human events can be, that their aim is not to amend but to destroy. Their object is not a good federal government; it is to have no solid union whatever. Seduced in some instances by visionary notions of existence as unconnected states, terrified from a sense of the tenure by which they hold their own importance, at the possibility of losing any thing of the state prerogative in the federal compound, the chief object of their wishes is to render the new government as difficult, expensive, and unsatisfactory as possible.

If the misfortunes of this state should still hang over her so far as to determine the election in their favor, and they should attempt on the one hand to introduce the amendments proposed at Harrisburg, we shall at much expence lose a great deal of that valuable time which ought to be immediately applied to the regulation of our finances, commerce, and internal resources, without a chance that the people will consent to diminish any part of that beautiful combination of strength and liberty which forms the character of the structure. But if on the other hand, in

pursuance of that secret plan which it is generally believed was laid at Harrisburg, no farther mention is made of amendments, then will all the well known ingenuity and industry of this sect of people be applied to the introduction of discord and dissension, to the general detriment and final dishonor of America.

This is therefore an occasion which ought to excite our alarm and urge our exertion. Whoever holds his liberty dear, whoever detests anarchy and loves government, peace, and independence, should now press into service all the abilities he possesses. To himself and to his country he now owes all his assiduity and all his labour, till the issue of the election shall have evinced that the good sense of Pennsylvania is incapable of being deceived by the specious assurances and treacherous machinations of her real enemies.

October 7, 1788.

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