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Adjournment of the New Hampshire Convention

Jeremiah Libbey to Jeremy Belknap Portsmouth, N.H., 19 February 1788

when you gave me the pleasing Account of the adoption of the Constitution by your State I had no doubt in my mind but I should have been able to have return'd you an Agreeable one of the doings of our Convention, but I do assure you I feel Mortified & very disagreeable, to find how they are Conducting, by the Spy which I Inclose, you will see their proceedings for the first day or two, since which it appears there is a Majority against it, and their Conduct is as it is, they the antifederalist, except two or three of their leaders, are as Dumb & Obstinate as — they will not say a word on the Subject even in private Conversations, being determin'd to put the Issue on the Important Sign of [lif?]ting their hands, and I suppose every one of them has Capacity to do that—their leaders are General Badger, and Atherton the lawyer, in the Convention, & General Peabody who has not a Seat Acts out Door & does more mischief than he could do had he a Seat—from what Mr Pickering¹ & others say, the only thing that can be done to prevent its rejection is to have an adjournment of the Convention—I think to go to Exeter tomorrow, and still hope to be Able to give you a more agreeable Account for I find the present Conduct Alarms all Characters in this Town. they seem to apprehend the most fatall Consequences from the present Appearances—

what will be the Event God only knows—and altho at present it appears so very disagreeable I cannot but think some thing Brighter will open on us as every person of any reputation is desirous of its being adopted & reprobate the Conduct of those persons who Oppose it in the way they do—

I shall by next Stage Inform you how they proceed & am Dear sir Your Friend & Servant
PS have recd yours will Observe its Contents & answer it ~~at~~ next Stage

1. Probably Federalist John Pickering, a lawyer and one of Portsmouth's three delegates to the New Hampshire Convention. He voted to ratify the Constitution in the June 1788 session.

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