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Benjamin Rush to Jeremy Belknap, Philadelphia 28 February 1788 (excerpt)

In answer to your question respecting the conduct & opinions of the quakers in Pennsylvania, I am very happy in being able to inform you that they are all (with an exception of three or four persons only) highly fœderal.—There was a respectable representation of that Society in our Convention, all of whom voted in favor of the New Constitution. They consider very wisely that the Abolition of slavery in our country must be gradual in order to be effectual, and that the Section of the Constitution which will put it in the power of Congress twenty years hence to ~~prohibit~~ restrain it altogether, was a great point obtained from the Southern States. The appeals therefore that have been made to the humane & laudable prejudices of our quakers by our Antifœderal writers, upon the Subject of Negro Slavery, have been treated by that prudent Society with Silence and Contempt. . . .

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