

## American Herald

The *American Herald* was published in Boston on Mondays by Edward E. Powars. While the Constitutional Convention was meeting, Powars advocated “the acceptance and approbation of the new Fœderal Constitution,” which he believed the Convention would recommend. After the Constitution appeared, he published almost no original material favoring the Constitution, although he printed Federalist, as well as Antifederalist, material from out-of-state newspapers, particularly from the Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, and *New York Journal*.

Such a policy, plus his criticism of the Federalist *Massachusetts Centinel’s* restrictive publication policy, brought Powars under severe Federalist criticism. “John De Witt” complained in the *Herald* of 3 December that Federalists sought “to fetter and suppress” the free discussion of the Constitution “by threatening the Printer and dropping” subscriptions to his newspaper. Powars was “determined to keep his paper open to all parties, and influenced by none.... though he should even lose some more of his customers” (*American Herald*, 17 December). A correspondent in the *New York Journal* (27 December) applauded Powars’ impartiality, mentioned his loss of subscribers, and encouraged those who took Boston newspapers to subscribe to the *Herald*.

Beginning in late December 1787, Powars was again attacked by Federalists for his proposed republication, in pamphlet form, of the *Letters from a Federal Farmer*—a major Antifederalist tract which New York Antifederalists had distributed widely. “Junius” wrote that, after reading an issue of the *Herald*, he “committed it to the flames. It was fraught (with some exceptions) with defamation and slander, and I was astonished to think that the editor of that publication should make it the vehicle of so much stupidity, finished impudence and complete puppyism, to the publick” (*Massachusetts Gazette*, 29 January 1788). Another critic of Powars hoped that “the wise and honest part of the community” would not “encourage the spreading of sedition so far as to become purchasers of his anti-federal farrago” (*ibid.*, 1 January).

Ignoring such threats and criticism, Powars expanded the *Herald* to a semiweekly on Thursday, 28 February 1788. By the summer, however, cancelled subscriptions had taken their toll, and Powars was forced to cease publication on 30 June. Two months later he resumed publication of the *Herald* as a weekly in Worcester. In his first issue on 21 August, Powars stated that he was not a “dependent retainer of a party,” that “truth” was “his only object,” and that he hoped “not to be the victim of this his unaltered determination.”

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