

From Tristram Dalton, Boston, 3 February 1788 (excerpts)

The propositions were then read. As soon as the Governor had read them and sat down, Mr. Adams arose and moved that they might be made the subject of debate, which being seconded was agreed to. They gave a shock to the *Antis* and caused an agreeable surprise in some of the *Feds*; however, they have not yet had the desired effect, but they are esteemed so important that on the motion of a half-converted *Anti*, at 2 o'clock yesterday, they were committed to a committee of two from each county, one from each side, to take up and report. Parsons and Hutchinson are for Essex... From the support of the Governor, and the plausibility of his plan, we promise ourselves a large majority. Until this the balance of power was each day vibrating, as the mercury in a thermometer. Never! Never was a more ardent struggle! Learning, Merit, Dignities, Wealth and Honesty pitted against their opposites!

Governor Hancock has hazarded his whole interests to the support of a Constitution, which, alone, must save his country. We must, whether successful or not, support his interest. Are you willing that we should pledge yours? Do not say, 'I will be damned first. He shall never have my vote.' Will you not if the Judge, Parsons and myself pledge ourselves? You will!

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