

Henry Jackson to Henry Knox, Boston, 23 January 1788 (excerpt)

my dear Harry

... The Convention are still setting They have now under debate one of the most important articles, that is, the powers of Congress,—this is advocated by all the able & most senceable men in the Convention—The Federal party are gaining ground every day, so much so, that the *Anti's* are much alarmed & talk of proposing an adjournment in Order to influence the Country at large against the Constitution, but I flatter myself they will not be able to carry their point—If they should in that instance, it will be a total distruction of it—

I mentioned to you Mr. Gerry[']s conduct, since which he has writen a Letter to the convention which you will observe in this days paper.—Judge Dana felt himself so much reflected on by Mr. G[']s observations, that after speaking a few words, on the subject left the house, with a determination not to return unless the Convention justified his conduct—nothing has as yet been done, nor has he been within the walls—he is one of the firmest, & most able supporters of the Constitution in the Convention,—his absence will be a great point gained by the other side of the question.—

Mr. G[']s conduct is very extraordinary & unaccountable, his friends are at a loss what can be his motives....

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